



Stick-on pain killers

Are magic patches a remedy or a gimmick?
Dr Thomas Stuttaford, p17



Cave treasure

Prehistoric wall paintings rival Lascaux, page 14



A superb meal for 20p

Take a friend out to dine for the price of *The Times*
Details and token, page 36

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,168

THURSDAY JANUARY 19 1995

Unemployment is cut by 54,000

Mortgage rise will follow Halifax lead

By JANET BUSH, ROBERT MILLER, PHILIP BASSETT AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE elusive "feel-good" factor slipped further from the Government's grasp yesterday as millions of homeowners faced a further increase in mortgage payments and inflation figures showed a surprising jump in December. The news overshadowed improved job figures, with unemployment falling by 54,000.

The Halifax Building Society, Britain's largest mortgage lender with 1.8 million borrowers, announced that it would raise its loan rate today by about 0.3 percentage points. The rise, a delayed response to the half-point rise in base rates in December, will be followed by other lenders almost immediately.

The increase would give the Halifax a variable mortgage rate of 8.4 per cent. At that level monthly payments on a £30,000 repayment loan would rise to £209.14 from £204.57 and on a £50,000 loan from £353.17 to £361.75.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, attempted to play down the threat of further interest-rate rises to keep the lid on inflation after yesterday's unexpected rise in the annual rate of inflation from 2.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent. He said on BBC Radio's *The World at*

One that the new rise was "no problem because I have already taken action with two increases in interest rates... to try to make sure that inflationary pressures in future don't build up".

But the City, which had been expecting a further half-point rise in base rates in March, was betting yesterday that an increase could now come within the next few weeks. That would probably mean yet another rise in mortgage rates.

Yesterday the Nationwide and the Woolwich both said that they would have to follow the Halifax. The Abbey National said that it had hoped to hold its mortgage rates but would have to reconsider.

Labour claimed that the recovery was under threat. Alistair Darling, its City spokesman, said: "Today's rise in inflation confirms that the Chancellor's two Budgets are hitting living standards hard as indirect tax increases feed through into higher prices. But the fact that underlying inflation is rising is a direct result of the underlying weakness of the economy. Capacity constraints and rising skill shortages are now threatening the sustainability

of the recovery at this early stage and with unemployment still unacceptably high."

Headline inflation rose by half a point in December, partly boosted by the Government's increases in excise duties in the Budget but also by an easing of last year's supermarket price wars. The underlying rate, which excludes mortgage interest payments, rose to 2.5 per cent from 2.3 per cent in November.

Yesterday's jobless figures took unemployment to a three-year low of 2,414,000. It was the largest one-month fall for six years. Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, said it showed the economy was "in very good shape".

Mr Clarke called the figures spectacular and said that, together with a record of low inflation throughout 1994, they produced a "very excellent combination of circumstances". His calm response was mirrored by Treasury officials who pointed out that inflation was still only at the level of last May.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, also tried to allay fears of higher inflation in a speech earlier this week. He hinted that interest rates would go up again but not by as much as the financial markets expect.

He and Mr Clarke will meet again to discuss interest rates on February 2. They face the danger that, if the markets expect a rise, a failure to announce one would undermine the Government's inflation-fighting credibility. John Sheppard, chief economist at Yamazaki International Europe, said: "They have got to stay ahead of the game or the markets will punish them."

However, the City reacted calmly to yesterday's inflation figures. Sterling gained and government bonds, particularly sensitive to price pressures, closed only marginally lower. The FTSE-100 index finished the day up 0.5 points at 3,054.9.

Fears of higher inflation were tempered by the fact that average earnings growth remains stable. Earnings grew in November by 3.75 per cent.

Also published yesterday were figures for the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement which totalled £0.7 billion in December, better than the City had expected. The borrowing requirement — totalled £23.3 billion for the year, compared with £31.4 billion the year before.

Mortgage rise, page 25
Anatole Kaletsky
and Janet Bush, page 29



Police clearing a road blocked by 500 protesters trying to block the passage of sheep lorries to the port of Brightlingsea in Essex

Apology for riot gear rout of protesters

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SENIOR police officer apologised yesterday for having to use police in riot gear to clear away local protesters after a ship laden with more than 1,200 sheep destined for slaughter on the Continent sailed from the small Essex port of Brightlingsea.

More than 250 police in riot gear and wielding long-handled batons brushed aside 500 protesters, leaving many children and old people in tears, during an operation to escort a convoy of lorries through the town centre to the docks. Two hundred com-

plaints about heavy-handed police tactics, in which one in 14 of the town's 7,000 population came on to the streets, were received by the organisers, Brightlingsea Against Live Exports (Bale).

Assistant Chief Constable Geoffrey Markham, who oversaw the operation, said: "I am very sorry indeed if local people were frightened by what they saw. It was frightening for young children to see police dressed like that but I had to consider the situation and react to it. Police are obliged to keep the Queen's

highway open for the free passage of everyone going about their lawful business."

"We also have a duty to protect the right of peaceful protest. But sometimes these objectives come into conflict as they did today and I was never going to be able to satisfy both sides."

The sheep, mustered in Kent and Huntingdon, were loaded onto the purpose-built transporter NV Caroline bound for Belgium on a ten-hour voyage.

Rick Morgan, Mayor of Brightlingsea, said he was

planning a meeting with police and added: "I saw nothing but a peaceful protest. The reaction by police was just over the top. The town is united against this live animal trade and these were local people attempting to make a peaceful protest. They included pensioners, children and mothers with babies."

Brian Mead, a local magistrate, said he would make an official complaint about police treatment of the protesters to the Chief Constable of Essex.

He rushed to the scene after his wife and teenage daughter

were manhandled during the melee.

His wife Anona, 44, said: "It was just unbelievable. We were all sitting in the road waiting to get up when the police asked us to move. But they just steamed in and jackbooted their way through the crowd. We were treated like the worst kind of football hooligans. What worries me most is how our local bobbies are going to be able to repair the damage this rent-a-thug army has done."

Protesters who tried to sit

Continued on page 2 col 7

Rebels to issue Euro-manifesto

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

HOPES of an early reconciliation between John Major and the Tory Euro-rebels suffered a setback last night with a rebellion on fishing rights and the disclosure that the rebels are to issue their own headline Euro-sceptic manifesto.

Most of the nine whipless MPs are expected to attend a press conference in Westminster this morning to launch a 1,000-word document opposing a single currency, calling for a reversal of some of the Maastricht treaty's moves towards integration and reducing the role of Brussels in British affairs.

The document will be seen as an indication that at least some of the rebels have no intention of returning early to the parliamentary party. Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton North and one of leading rebels, said: "I take the view that the party cannot win the next election unless and until we have policy on Europe with which the party and the people can be at one."

The rebels denied that they

were increasingly acting as a separate party. A source said: "We are not a party within a party. We do not have a leader. This document has been drawn up by consensus."

But it is clear that most of the rebels, excluding Michael Cartiss, MP for Great Yarmouth, have been meeting regularly. There are divisions about tactics and at least one, Nicholas Budgen, is understood not to go along with the policy paper.

The Government tried last night to head off the threatened rebellion over fishing rights by announcing a doubling of assistance for British fishermen forced to take their vessels out of production.

William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, said the Government would give an extra £28 million to "decommission" boats. He also announced procedures to ensure that Spanish boats did not break fishing rules.

MPs dilemma, page 10
Tories in disarray, page 11

Mary Archer to quit Anglia

Dr Mary Archer, wife of Lord Archer, will shortly retire from the board of Anglia Television, the company in which her husband's share transactions caused a political storm last year. She intends to retire as a non-executive director after the board meeting in mid-February. Page 25

Lord Kagan dies aged 79

Lord Kagan, a former confidant of Prime Minister Harold Wilson, has died aged 79. He founded the Gannex raincoat empire but was jailed for ten months in 1980 for theft and false accounting. Obituary, page 21

Religions reach out on computer

By MARIANNE DARCH

THE world's religious leaders are plunging into cyberspace to spread their message far and wide.

The Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury are already hooked up to the Internet and Dr Jonathan Sacks, Britain's Chief Rabbi, will log on next month.

The potential congregation is vast. More than 35 million people in 160 countries use the network to exchange electronic mail. The religious leaders see the new technology as an opportunity to spread information quickly, cheaply and privately. All that is needed to plug in is a personal computer, modem, and telephone. E-

mail, says a spokesman for the Chief Rabbi, is "a great step forward for all religious leaders." The Vatican agrees. It provides an electronic service packed with information about the Pope and the Vatican, updated daily and delivered direct to your computer terminal.

Lambeth Palace, the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury, set up an E-mail address early last year which has been well-received. The Archbishop has not been overwhelmed by messages from "the ordinary man-in-the-pew," a spokesman admitted. Most of them come from Anglican offices overseas.

Cycle ride through a city in fear and mourning

KOBE is virtually cut off from the rest of Japan. With road and rail links severed by Tuesday's earthquake, relief workers from Osaka have taken up to 12 hours to cover the 40 miles between the two cities.

Only relief vehicles are allowed to use the roads, so I borrowed a bicycle and rode the rest of the way into a landscape of desolation in which more than 3,000 have been killed, almost 15,000 injured and more than 800 are missing.

A few minutes from the last functioning station, I passed the twisted wreckage of a lorry, crushed by a huge section of the overhead road that had collapsed, killing the driver. A bus hung precariously over the edge of another fallen span. Several miles of



Peregrine Hodson reports from devastated Kobe, whose citizens, in sorrow for their 3,000 dead, wander the ruins in stunned disbelief that such destruction could be visited on their city

the concrete structure has been toppled and shattered by the terrible force of the earthquake and the surviving road surface is cracked with jagged fissures.

Destruction is everywhere. In the cold light of the moon the city is an apocalyptic landscape of shadowy towers echoing to the mournful rise and fall of sirens.

Traditional buildings made of wood with tiled roofs have been hardest hit: many have collapsed or lean at crazy angles against each other.

More modern buildings have withstood the wrenching effects of the earthquake, although many show signs of damage where great chunks of masonry have been ripped away exposing the rooms inside. Large areas of Kobe are without electricity and there is no running water.

As the sun set, the city was lit by the flicker of ambulance, police car and fire engine lights. Here and there fires still raged in the ruins of buildings in the near-deserted streets. Many of the city's 1.5

million inhabitants are still in a state of numbed disbelief.

Until now, Kobe was considered a relatively safe part of this earthquake-prone country and the shock has left people dazed and frightened. Some walk aimlessly through the ruins of their neighbourhood. Others have organised themselves into teams distributing food and water.

At present all the city's shops and restaurants are closed and few vehicles are moving in the centre, apart from lorries taking food to schools and halls where people whose houses have been destroyed are gathered. In Nagata ward, scene of some of the heaviest damage, the fires are still burning.

Several blocks have been devastated; the tortured shapes of melted girders frame the smoking remains of

a shopping centre. Roads are buckled and pitted by deep cracks. A car rests in a ten-foot trench where a stretch of the Underground system has collapsed. Street lights tip drunkenly against houses, pavements glitter with broken glass and advertising signs, torn from their moorings, swing perilously from department stores.

Since the earthquake struck at 5.46am on Tuesday there have been many aftershocks. There is a risk that another big earthquake could occur, although with every day that passes the danger decreases. Even so, many people prefer to sleep under the stars despite near-freezing temperatures. Others have fled, creating gigantic traffic jams on the few passable roads out of the city. During the night

Continued on page 15 col 8



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Inflation shows bouncy economy cannot be taken for granted

Kenneth Clarke was right yesterday to be relaxed about the news of the larger than expected rise in the inflation rate and the expected announcement today by the Halifax Building Society of a rise in its mortgage rate. Neither is particularly worrying, yet. Rather, they provide a timely corrective to some of the recent euphoria about the economy. Senior Tories, though not Treasury ministers, have been talking as if all our economic problems have disappeared. There has been

more than a whiff of the "economic miracle" language of 1988. The current economic environment may be the "most encouraging" for some years, as the Treasury Select Committee claimed on Monday in its report on the Budget. But that does not mean that a strong economy is certain to continue. Moreover, a majority of voters do not even acknowledge the existence of the recovery, let alone its strength.

There are real risks of overheating, as the Treasury committee admitted. The Treasury and other economists are uncertain about how much spare capacity there is in the economy and therefore how long the economy can grow above its trend rate of between 2 and 2.5 per cent a year. But no one believes that the recent growth rate of 4 per cent a year can be sustained for very long without creating inflationary difficulties. That may, as Labour again argued yesterday, reflect structural weaknesses in the economy, as shown by skill shortages. But, in the

short term, this means that the Treasury and the Bank of England have little choice but to apply a brake, as they have done for the past four months. They have acted earlier than in past economic cycles to prevent a sharp rise in inflation and hence a higher peak in interest rates. The explicit hope is that the growth rate will slow over the next few months. The evidence so far is mixed. Industrial production fell in

November but yesterday's figures showed a further big drop in unemployment. The corrective action already taken may not be enough. Few would bet against another rise in interest rates over the next few weeks. The Treasury committee said there was some danger that the Treasury had underestimated the level of inflation this year. That question is underlined by yesterday's figures. The committee noted the

implication that there will have to be further monetary tightening, "and this will test the resolve of the monetary authorities, especially as there is a pledge to be in the bottom half of the (1 to 4 per cent) target range by the end of this Parliament. Indeed, the introduction of the sub-range of 1 to 2.5 per cent may either force the introduction of a particularly tight monetary policy, dampening the recovery, or cause the Chancellor to break a stated aim that could undermine the credibility of the new deal for monetary policy". The

assumption so far in Downing Street, both numbers 10 and 11, has been that any rise in interest rates should be relatively small, so there should be no sense of crisis, nor any credit crunch. That hope is why the rest of the Cabinet has backed Mr Clarke's caution. Economic decisions are seldom so straightforward. Those calculations are crucial for Mr Major's hopes of starting to cut taxes in the November Budget. If the threat of overheating is still present in the autumn, the Chancellor will

not be able to announce a big cut in income tax without risking an adverse market reaction and a further rise in interest rates. It will be a delicate balancing act. Last Monday, John Major said that "no one should expect a bouncy economy alone to be sufficient for victory". But, equally, without a bouncy economy there is no hope of electoral victory in 1996-97. And yesterday's news shows that that cannot be taken for granted.

PETER RIDDELL

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Gulf War injuries inquiry attacked

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A COMMONS inquiry began last night into claims that hundreds of servicemen have suffered long-running illnesses because of the Gulf War. Labour accused defence ministers of insensitivity in refusing to set up a medical research programme into the condition.

The Commons Defence Select Committee will call for evidence from servicemen and defence officials as it examines government claims that there is no evidence to link the conflict with symptoms including fatigue, hair loss, kidney disorders and memory loss. More than 500 servicemen blame the "Gulf War syndrome" on vaccinations and nerve agent labels.

David Clark, Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "The Government's approach smacks of shortsightedness and irresponsibility... They are examining veterans individually, rather than comparing them as a whole. What we want is a full medical research study."

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said examination of 77 veterans revealed no evidence of a syndrome. Psychological conditions were uncovered in 26 per cent of cases and chronic fatigue syndrome in 12 per cent. Serious medical conditions unrelated to Gulf War service were discovered in 17 per cent.

Decommissioning grants are 'smack in the face' say angry trawlermen

Fishermen condemn ministers' cash offers

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

CORNISH fishermen yesterday refused to be "bought off" by government offers of extra money to take their boats out of service and make room for Spanish trawlers in British waters.

The fishermen, who are threatening a prolonged campaign of protest over Spanish fishing rights, called on William Waldegrave, the Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, to withdraw from the European Union's common fisheries policy and take British fishing grounds back under national control.

Mr Waldegrave was last night expected to announce "a very significant increase" in the existing £25 million decommissioning package, £16 million of which will have been spent by April. Under the scheme, fishermen can apply for grants to scrap their boats.

Geoff Bullus, a board member of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, said: "To offer extra decommissioning grants is a bloody insult. It is a smack in the face. The Government is trying to buy

us off to let trawlers from another member state come and fish our traditional grounds."

From next January, under a deal agreed in Brussels last month, up to 40 Spanish trawlers will be allowed into most of a 90,000-square mile expanse of sea round Ireland known as the Irish Box. The Spanish vessels are twice the size of most Cornish boats.

Mr Bullus, who fishes for hake, cod and whiting with a 55ft gill-netter out of Newlyn, will be competing directly with the Spanish trawlers. "It is crazy to allow another 40 boats into an area where stocks are already depleted. The Spanish trawl with nets that have a much smaller mesh size than ours and catch huge amounts of immature fish. The common fisheries policy has got to be scrapped and national controls reimposed. If the European Commission in Brussels was capable of managing fisheries properly, it might be a different story, but they are interested only in political deals, not in conserving fish stocks."

Mike Townsend, chief executive of the fish producers' organisation, which represents 1,200 Cornish fishermen, said: "The idea of us having to scrap our boats to make way for the Spaniards is entirely repugnant and we will not accept it under any circumstances." Mr Townsend added: "It is apparent that the Government is unable to protect the interests of the industry under the



The Newlyn Fleet tied up in the Cornish port. Fishermen have threatened to wreck the common fisheries policy

present policy. We have got no control whatever over other member states and it seems we cannot even fight our own corner in the Council of Ministers." Richard Banks, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said: "The Government would have had to spend more on decommissioning anyway because it is committed to cutting the size of the fishing fleet by 15

per cent by 1996 under a Europe-wide programme to reduce overfishing." At a meeting in Derby on Saturday, the federation is to discuss whether to give national support to calls by West Country fishermen for "direct action" to make the common fisheries policy unworkable. This could include port blockades and refusal to fill in log books and report catches.

Jonathan Walter, secretary of the Padstow Fishing Boat Owners' Association, said: "There is much bitterness. Personally, I have become so disillusioned that I am planning to sell my lobster fishing boat after 15 years at sea. Fishermen do not seem to carry much political clout. If we were farmers, the Government would pay far more attention to us."

MPs dilemma, page 10

MP asks BBC to disclose expenses

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

A TORY MP yesterday named Graham Leach and Kevin Connolly as senior BBC overseas correspondents at the centre of "persistent stories" that vast expenses bills had been run up at licence-payers' expense.

Michael Fabricant, MP for Mid Staffordshire and a technical and marketing consultant to the BBC, tabled a written motion under the protection of Parliamentary privilege, demanding information from the BBC about "claims of more than six figures".

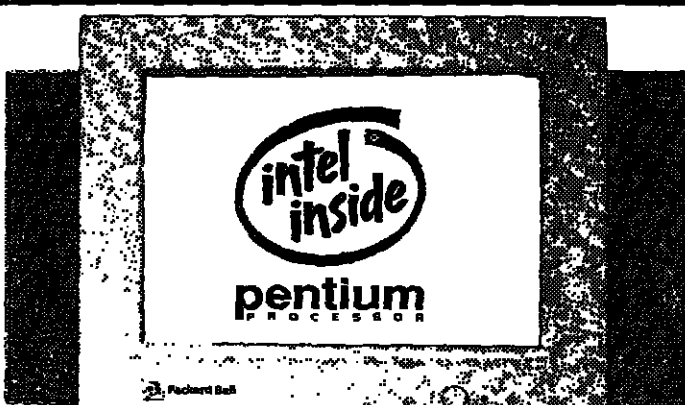
The first motion, concerning Mr Leach, a former Europe correspondent, listed alleged claims that included the cost of air-freighting grand pianos from South Africa to Europe, the purchase of a lawn mower for a fifth-floor apartment and office furniture that subsequently could not be found.

The second motion demanded information about the transfer of Mr Connolly from Moscow to Paris and whether satellite-link equipment at the BBC Moscow bureau was used to make unauthorised calls "amounting to well into five figures".

A BBC spokesman denied the allegations. He said Mr Leach, who now works for London News Radio, had resigned for unspecified "personal reasons" and Mr Connolly's transfer was part of the normal movement of correspondents.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree due today for Parker Bowles

Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles and his wife Camilla are due to receive their decree nisi today, just nine days after the couple announced that they were to divorce. Mrs Parker Bowles, who has had a long-standing relationship with the Prince of Wales, is unlikely to attend the principal registry of the High Court Family Division in London, where the decree is scheduled to be granted with those of 29 other couples.

Mrs Parker Bowles, 47, and her husband will be granted their decree absolute in six weeks. The couple have lived apart for more than two years.

Drugs sparked jail riot

A clampdown on a "heavy drug culture" at Everthorpe prison, Humberside, in which staff seized drugs worth £3,000 before moving suspected dealers, was one of the main reasons for the riots on January 2 and 3, according to a prison service inquiry report published yesterday. The inquiry also criticised management failures.

Shortlist for Guardian

Peter Preston's successor as Editor of *The Guardian* is expected to be named next week. Meanwhile, Mr Preston was yesterday denying that a story about donations from Asil Nadir had been "anti-conservative scandal-mongering" on the third day of a libel action brought by Paul Judge, director-general of the party's Central Office.

Race equality failure

A survey of more than 300 leading companies found that only half were making an effort to put racial equality policies into practice. The report by the Commission for Racial Equality said there was a "disappointing failure" by many companies to take action, although 88 per cent of firms had racial equality policies.

Clause Four support

Tony Blair yesterday won support for his reform of Clause Four from leaders of one of the party's key trade unions. Leaders of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union issued a new draft clause broadly in line with the party's attempts to reform its constitution. Labour leaders welcomed the emphasis on a "strong mixed economy".

Iceland chief robbed

Paintings, silver and antique guns worth more than £100,000 have been stolen from the country home of Malcolm Walker, founder of the Iceland frozen food chain. Thieves broke in at Brompton Old Hall, near Chester, while his daughter, 17, and housekeeper were in the house.

Anderson airs feelings

Gerry Anderson, whose show *Anderson Country* was dropped from Radio 4 after protests from listeners about his relaxed style, said yesterday that he regretted joining the station and that the BBC had wanted "someone who is impossible to find". Brenda Maddox, page 16

Protest police apologise

Continued from page 1
down in front of the four lorries were bundled aside by officers. Later they were removed as they tried to form a human barricade outside the docks. Two men were arrested.

Maria Wilby, 29, a housewife and protest organiser, said: "It was disgusting. People were hit and trampled underfoot as the police surged forward. There were mothers with toddlers here and some were pulled out by their hair. The police have been so hostile I'm shocked. But we won't be put off. The protests will continue."

Mr Markham disclosed that he was faced with an ultimatum from livestock exporter Roger Mills and East Anglian farmer Richard Otley after the cargo of live sheep was first turned back by protesters on Monday.

He said: "Mr Mills told me he intended to move his vehicles into Brightlingsea with or without

police support. I considered this would have created an extraordinarily fraught situation so in the interests of public safety I had to make the police operation as quick and clean as possible."

Mr Mills had threatened to sue police for £30,000 over their failure on Monday to get the sheep through. Mr Otley had complained to the Home Secretary.

Mr Otley rode in the cab of one of the lorries as it was escorted to the quayside. He said: "It was marvellous. The police mounted a super operation and it was very well organised."

The search by animal exporters for transport facilities among small ports and airports has been precipitated by the decision of major ferry operators to discontinue the trade amid mounting public distaste.

Mrs Linda Townley

Last Monday's report (January 16) about recent revelations by the Prince of Wales's valet referred to a previous royal servant who "took private letters from the Princess Royal's briefcase and gave... first confirmation of the

Princess's relationship with Commander Timothy Laurence." We are asked to make it clear, and we accept, that Mrs Linda Townley neither took any letters nor disclosed them to anyone and we apologise to her for any embarrassment caused.

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Widow loses battle with mistress over husband's grave

By Andrew Pierce

A DEAD man's mistress yesterday won her battle to be allowed to share his grave when she dies. But the man's widow promised to fight on and move her husband's body to another plot, despite a judge's plea for compromise between the warring women.

Judge Alan Taylor granted Jean Cooper, who spent weeks with her lover Ken Dunn, exclusive rights to the grave as she had paid for the funeral in May 1991. But Debbie Doyle, 35, Mr Dunn's daughter, said last night: "The mistress may have won the battle but she has not won the war, there are other matters that have to go through the court. Indeed, this has been a hollow victory for her."

"We intend to apply to the Home Office for permission to exhume my father so that he can finally rest in peace."

Judge Taylor, who was told that an unseemly fight between Mrs Doyle and Ms Cooper, 55, was narrowly averted at the disputed graveside, appealed for calm at Birmingham Crown Court. "I appreciate these disputes produce strong feelings and sentiments," he said, adding that now the dispute was over



Dunn: he alternated between the women

and there was a legal answer both sides should think about each other's feelings.

During yesterday's hearing Mr Dunn's widow, Patricia, 54, said she discussed the funeral arrangements as she comforted the mistress on the morning of her husband's death from a heart attack.

She said: "It was the first time I had been to Jean's house but we sat together and she told me how Ken had died." Ms Cooper, who changed her name to Dunn in 1975, had told her that the funeral costs would be met by her husband's estate. Mrs Dunn added: "We were fool enough to believe her. I was

his legal wife and his next of kin. I just assumed that I would be buried with him." Mr Dunn left £65,000 but died intestate.

Her daughter had wanted to cancel the funeral the night before it was due to take place at the Robin Hood Cemetery in Solihull when she discovered the mistress intended the double plot for her own.

Nicola Preston, for Ms Cooper, said that as her client had paid the funeral costs she had the rights to the plot. "My client asked for a double grave plot because she wanted to be buried with Kenneth Dunn," she said. Mrs Preston said Mr Dunn had made a private agreement with Ms Cooper to be buried together. She said that there was no agreement to pay for the funeral out of the estate.

Mrs Doyle said: "It was me who suggested the coffin, the cemetery and the double grave so my mother could be buried there as well. If I had thought they were agreeing so Ms Cooper could be buried with dad, I would have walked out and arranged everything on my own for mum."

The court had been told that Mrs Dunn had tolerated her husband's lover for almost two decades. But the uneasy understanding between the two rivals collapsed after Ms Cooper and her son Michael paid the £2,421 costs of the funeral and arranged for the double plot so that she could one day lie alongside him. Mrs Dunn argued that it was her rightful resting place as they had never divorced.

The court had been told that the two women's houses were "home" from "home" for Mr Dunn, who spent the weekend in Erdington, Birmingham, with his lover and weekends with his family five miles away in Tyseley.



Ms Cooper the mistress, left, and Mrs Dunn the widow

Electronic device on body of Russian

By Lucy Berrington

A RUSSIAN journalist found hanged in a London flat had a transmitting device pinned inside his trousers, an inquest was told yesterday.

Alexei Bourmistenko, 52, was found in November strangled with a string that was wound round his neck and attached to banisters.

The London-based reporter for a Russian trade union newspaper was depressed after losing his passport and \$1,000 in a mugging, the hearing was told. Other newspaper staff and the journalist's Moscow-based wife became worried after not hearing from Mr Bourmistenko for several days.

Police were initially suspicious but a post-mortem examination by Dr Iain West of Guy's Hospital, London, found "no injuries of a sinister nature". There was no suicide note and no sign of intrusion.

Detective Inspector Michael Bennett said that a red, circular electronic device, about the size of a 50p coin, had been sewn in a cloth bag and pinned inside Mr Bourmistenko's trousers. The device was apparently designed to emit a signal over a few feet and probably gave access to a controlled door. It was not a gadget used in this country but could have been for his work elsewhere.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, said this was the most "plausible if unusual explanation". He recorded a verdict of suicide.

Bogus taxi driver in sex attack was on parole

By Lucy Berrington

A BOGUS taxi driver who kidnapped a young woman, stabbed her and left her for dead was on parole for a rape in similar circumstances.

Martin Caldwell, 36, was yesterday convicted at Maidstone Crown Court of attempting to murder and sexually assaulting the 20-year-old woman, whom he snatched from outside a Dover nightclub after pretending to be a taxi driver. He had been released early from a six-year sentence for rape imposed in December 1990 and was on parole when he committed the attack last Easter. In 1988, while serving with the Army in West Germany, he was jailed for three years by a German court for assaulting a girl.

Mr Justice Blfield said Caldwell was a serious risk to women. "I am considering a sentence of life imprisonment."



Caldwell: could face life imprisonment

but used medical and psychiatric reports to decide if an indeterminate sentence would be correct. Sentencing is expected by February 23.

The woman fainted during the attack and laid in a road near Lydden, Kent, for three hours before help arrived. Surgeons performed three major operations to revive her after she suffered severe haemorrhaging.

Caldwell, of Dover, an unemployed taxi driver, denied attempted murder but admitted wounding, abduction, false imprisonment and indecent assault.

A tape-recorded interview between Caldwell and police officers was played in court. In it he told how he tied up his victim, sexually assaulted her and stabbed her in a rage after he was unable to rape her. "I felt I wanted to punish and demean her for what is wrong with my life and what I blame women for. I picked up the knife, leant over and opened the car door on her side. As she got out I thought she was getting away," he said. "I did not intend to kill her or hurt her when I stabbed her. It sounded from her breath coming out as if she had been roughly tackled. I thought she was dead."

Family and friends of the victim clapped and cheered when the verdict was announced. Outside court the victim was hugged by members of her family. "I am so relieved," she said.

Couple died roped together after fall from alpine peak

By A Staff Reporter

TWO Oxford University post-graduates fell 2,500ft to their deaths from one of Europe's highest mountains weeks after becoming engaged, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr Ian Challoner-Courtney, 29, of Hallaton, Leicestershire, and his American fiancée, Dr Wendy Havelka, 30, from Chicago, were roped together when they fell from the 13,677ft Jungfrau in the Swiss Alps. They couple became engaged last May and were due to marry next month. Both had just become Doctors of Biochemistry after studying at University College, Oxford, and their holiday was their

first chance for a break after a long period of study. The tragedy happened on July 27 last year when the two were alone as they descended from the Jungfrau's summit. Hot weather had loosened the ice, which gave way.

Alison Challoner-Courtney, Ian's mother, told an inquest in Leicester. They were experienced climbers, they were meticulous and they had the best equipment. The Swiss police told us that the two had reached the summit and were returning to a mountain hut to collect some of their belongings.

Dr Alan Fletcher, a Home Office pathologist, said Mr

Challoner-Courtney had died from severe neck, chest and abdominal injuries consistent with a very long fall. Michael Chapman, Leicester assistant deputy coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Stephen Venables, vice-president of the Alpine Club, said that the Jungfrau was a serious peak. "You have to be an able and competent climber who can deal with snow and ice," he said. "It's a popular mountain but that does not mean it is 100 per cent safe and there is always scope for error or bad luck."

An inquest on Dr Havelka has been opened and adjourned in America.



Mr Palimovas with Gloria Hunniford yesterday. "Perhaps I will have a dog and look forward to a little luxury for the rest of my life," he said

Nazi camp survivor wins £2m on pools

A LITHUANIAN refugee who survived a German prison camp and came to Britain 46 years ago was yesterday handed a cheque for more than £2 million — the biggest prize awarded to one person (Kathryn Knight writes).

Andrejus Palimovas, 73, who lives alone with his cat in a one-bedroom flat in Gloucester and has never been on holiday, won the £2,326,792.80 jackpot with Littlewoods after placing a 60p stake. Mr Palimovas, who still holds a Lithuanian passport, has no family and last saw his mother, three brothers and four sisters just before

the Nazis deported him from his home town in Lithuania in 1944.

Emotional and speaking with the help of an interpreter after being presented with his cheque by Gloria Hunniford at the Langham Hilton Hotel in London, he said he would use the money to buy a dog to keep him and his cat company. Mr Palimovas recalled how the Germans took him captive in 1944 when he was 23, while he was working in a metal factory. He was deported to a factory in Stuttgart and forced to work there for four years. "I was so scared when the Germans came I

can't remember much... I worked as a machinist in the camp, 6am to 6pm six days a week."

At the camp he met Willie, the man who was to become his best friend. They arrived in Britain together in 1948 and, after moving around England doing odd jobs for a few years, they eventually settled in Gloucester. Willie died four months ago.

He has worked as a storeman and security officer on a trading estate for many years. He never married and although officially retired, he still works as a handyman for the company, who provide him with a tiny

flat, rent free, on the estate. Mr Palimovas thought initially that he had won just a few thousand pounds, but now says that he will use his winnings, £33,000 more than the previous record, to buy a new house with a garden. He has no plans to return to Lithuania.

"I would like a bungalow in Gloucester and a little garden with some flowers. I like dogs so perhaps I would have a little dog and look forward to a little luxury for the rest of my life," he said. "I hear Jamaica's nice, but I've never been in a plane in my life."

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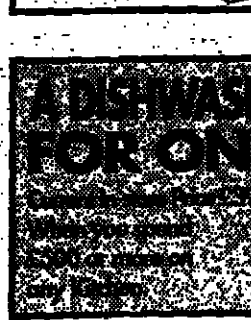


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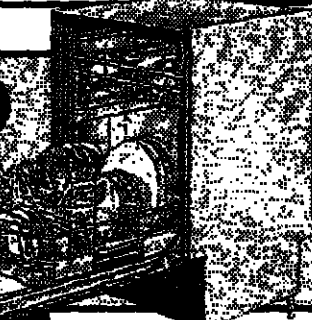


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Anger over 'dangerous' plan to apply foreign laws

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for sweeping legal reforms that would allow restrictive foreign laws to be applied in the English courts have been put forward by the Government.

The plans, to be debated by a special committee in the House of Lords today, would give far greater freedom to sue for damages for libel and other civil wrongs, using the laws of overseas countries. English courts would be able to consider law suits by people from overseas, even where no civil wrong had been committed under United Kingdom law.

The changes are contained in the Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which is going through a new speedy procedure in the House of Lords with a package of other reforms proposed by the Law Commission. They will be debated today by a Special Public Bill Committee under Lord Brightman, the retired law lord.

At present people can only sue in English courts if the conduct they complain of amounts to a civil wrong under English law. The Bill would remove that hurdle, enabling people to recover damages if the act complained of is a civil wrong under foreign laws, unless a judge decides to reject the claim on

grounds of public policy. The proposals have aroused concern among lawyers and newspapers that they would open the floodgates to expensive libel actions from abroad and enable restrictive laws on freedom of expression to dictate press behaviour.

The changes might also allow an investor to claim against an auditor who acted without proper care and caused him economic loss, even though the courts have ruled no such claim can be brought by an English investor.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, the Liberal Democrat peer, who has already expressed concern on the Bill's second reading, said the proposals were dangerous and departed from the Law Commission's original version of how the law should be changed.

"It would be quite wrong for the freedom of the press in this country and elsewhere to be chilled or restricted by applying in English courts the laws of foreign countries which are far more repressive of freedom of expression," he said.

"If a British newspaper or broadcaster has published truthful but damaging material about an elected politician or public officer, and the publication occurs abroad as well as here, then if the plaintiff were to attempt to sue in England for libel, he would fail." That was because truth was a defence to publication under English law. "But under this Bill, the plaintiff will be able to obtain damages or even an injunction in the UK if in the foreign country where the publication also took place, truth would be no defence."

"A second defence to libel, qualified privilege, may be recognised under English common law but it might not be in the country of the person wanting to sue, such as Malaysia or Singapore."



Lord Lester: press freedom would be 'chilled'

Anthony Whitaker, page 18: Leading article, page 19

Civil rights group hails sadism ruling

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to be challenged in Europe over the prosecution of adults who indulge in sadomasochistic practices with each other's consent.

The European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg has declared admissible three cases lodged by Liberty, the civil rights group, alleging such prosecutions breach the European Convention on Human Rights.

The cases have been brought by three men who were among a group of sadomasochists prosecuted in 1990. They allege the prosecutions for assault are in breach of the right to privacy.

John Wadham, legal officer of Liberty, said: "I am sure that the European Court will confirm the decision of the Commission and decide that our clients' right to privacy was violated. The Government should now offer to pay compensation to those impris-

oned and to change the law that rules consent is no defence in sexual acts."

The cases are being brought by Anthony Brown, a former local government officer from Yardley, West Midlands; Colin Laskey, a former teacher from Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan; and Roland Jaggard, a former aerospace engineer of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

The Court of Appeal cut their sentences but upheld their convictions. The men appealed to the House of Lords, which held by three to two that consent to sadomasochistic practices was no defence to charges of wounding or assault causing actual bodily harm. Lord Templeman said: "Society is entitled to protect itself against a cult of violence."

In February last year the Law Commission proposed that the line should be drawn at serious bodily harm.

160mph biker's split-second grace

By EMMA WILKINS

A DELAY of a fraction of a second by police operating a speed trap may have allowed a motorcyclist to escape a charge of speeding at 178.9mph.

The charge against Anthony Pearce, 31, was withdrawn after the court heard that his Honda Fireblade was not capable of the speed recorded by a police computer. He pleaded guilty to dangerous driving after accepting that he reached 160mph. He is awaiting sentence for dangerous driving.

Experts said yesterday that police may have had only 0.38 seconds to push the button that activated their speeding computer on board their patrol car when they saw Pearce speeding on the A38 Station Coldfield bypass last July. Kevin Delaney, traffic and road safety manager with the RAC and a former chief superintendent in charge of the Metropolitan Police's traffic branch, said operational error was possible when measuring speeds as high as 160 to 170mph.

"The system relies on the human element. The officer has to see a vehicle pass a given point to start and then stop the machine. There may be a possibility of error when the hand does not move as



Police use increasingly sophisticated speed devices

fast as the eye," he said.

Inspector David Rowland, head of training traffic officers at the Metropolitan Police, said that over the distance of 0.155 miles that police tracked Pearce, the difference between recording 160mph and 178.9mph was only 0.38 seconds.

Even so, officers said that Vascar (Visual Average

Speed Computer and Recorder) was the fairest and most accurate speeding device available. Superintendent Desmond McGarr, secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' traffic enforcement technology committee and an expert on Vascar, said: "The device works on the simple principle of recording time and dis-

tance to calculate average speed. With very high speeds it makes the operation of the device ever more critical. As the distance gets less, then the operator error may increase. I have no doubt at all about the ability of the device."

Police officers are given four days' training before they are allowed to operate Vascar, which was introduced 22 years ago. They are given 25 tests.

The minimum distance recommended for using Vascar is 0.125 miles. There are circumstances when shorter distances are acceptable if the alleged offence is committed in a built-up area.

Motorists should not consider querying their speeding convictions on the basis of the most recent case, Mr Delaney said. "The RAC is not about to start advising our members to query their convictions. The case doesn't detract from the value of Vascar."

The AA added that it too was happy with the computer.

There were 395,000 fixed penalty notices issued for speed limit offences in England and Wales in 1993 — the latest year for which figures are available, according to the Home Office. The average fine at magistrates' courts in 1993 was £127, with about two thirds of offences recorded in built-up areas.

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Friday, December 9, 1994 Page 2, Page 5

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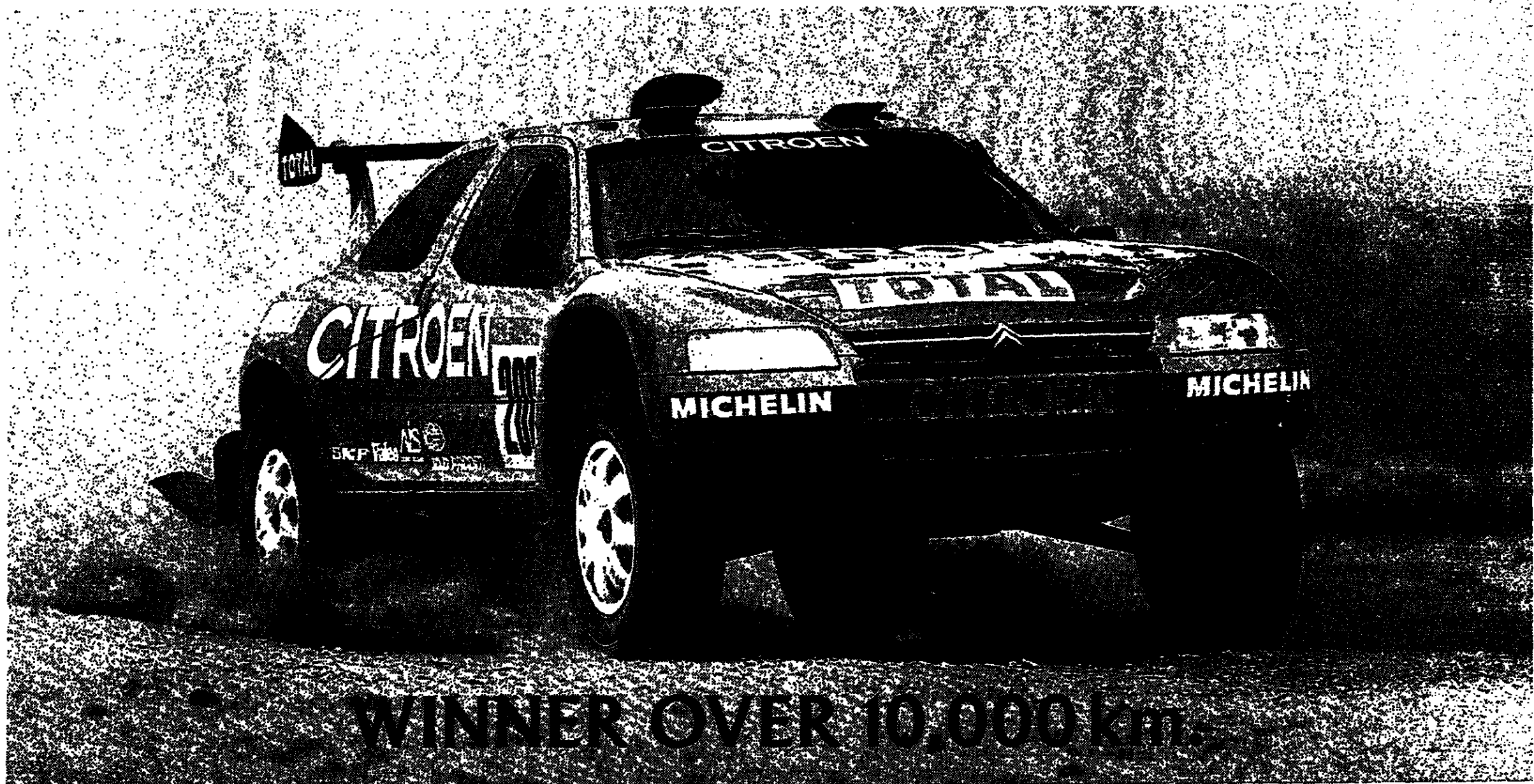
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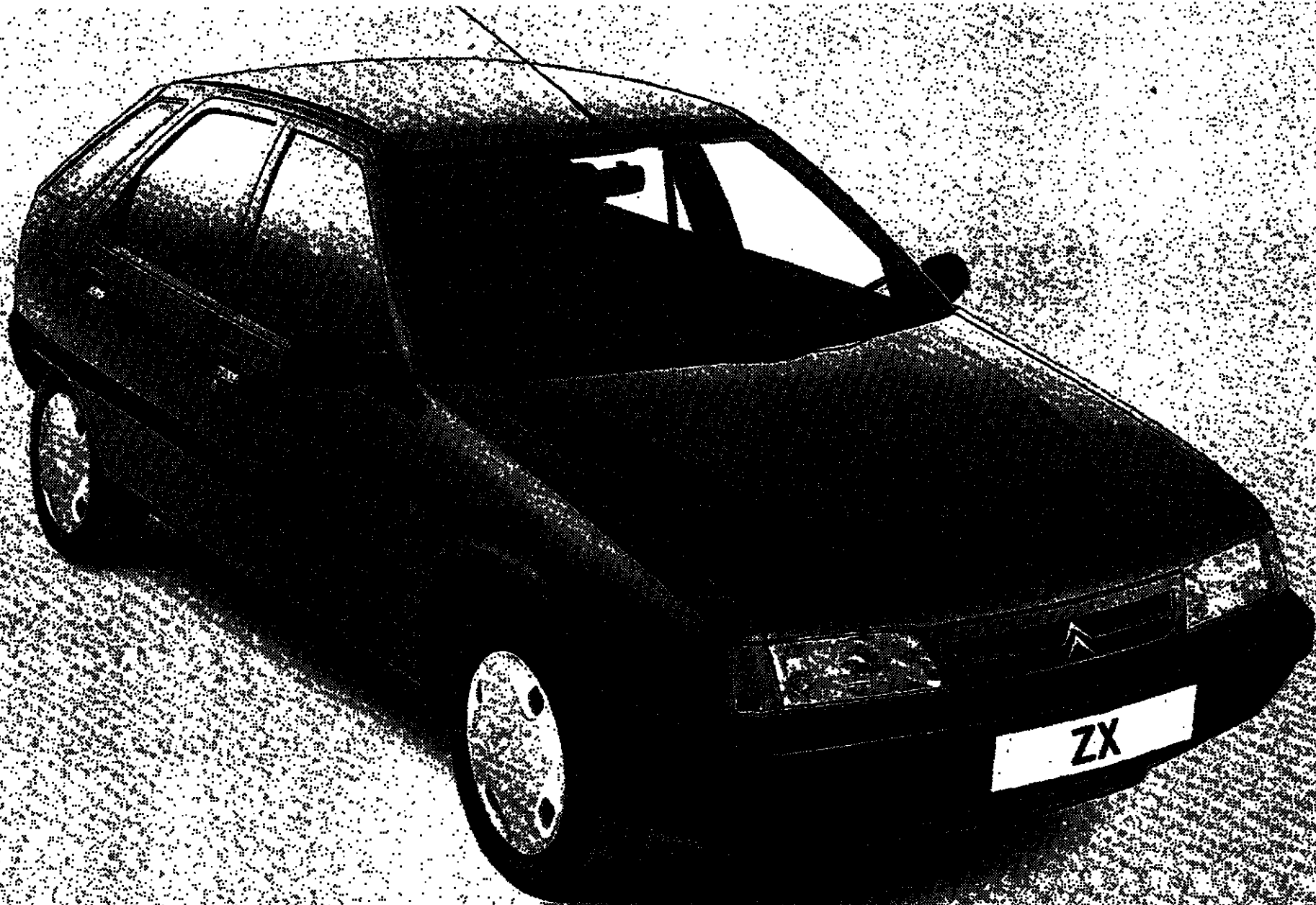
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Attenborough appeals to Clarke to stop folly of funding project that would ruin natural wonder

Campaign launched to save Madagascan forests from mining

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to save Madagascan forests from a British mining scheme was launched yesterday by Sir David Attenborough and the girl-friend of Andrew Lees, the campaign director for Friends of the Earth, who died on New Year's Eve while filming and gathering evidence on the expected destruction.

Dr Chris Orengo, a scientist at University College London, said: "The most important thing is to win the campaign so that something comes out of Andrew's work and it was not a waste that he died." Mr Lees died on the island from a heart attack.

Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ), the British-based company behind the Madagascan mining project, expects to obtain funding for the scheme from the World Bank or the African Development Bank. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is a governor of both banks, to which Britain contributes yearly £220 million and £20 million respectively.

Charles Secrett, director of Friends of the Earth, which is orchestrating the campaign, said: "We fully expect the Chancellor to use his influence

to stop this mining project and to invest British taxpayers' money through the development banks into sustainable alternatives." Tony Juniper, habitats campaigner with Friends of the Earth, said that Madagascan had debts of \$3.7 billion, which represented half the country's export earnings. Reducing that debt would be a first step towards making its government less dependent on environmentally damaging schemes such as the mines.

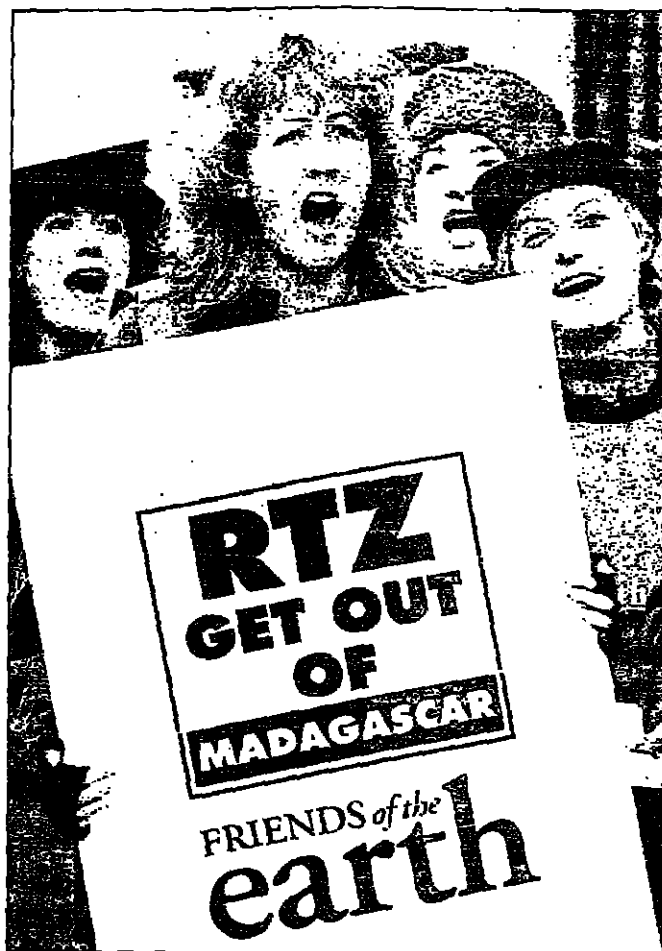


Sir David: plea for eco-tourism help

The campaign launch in London coincided with the presentation, also in London, by the Chancellor of a Worldware Business Award for conservation to Richards Bay Minerals, one of RTZ's subsidiaries. Mr Clarke, who was heckled by demonstrators as he left the ceremony, refused to comment on the mine proposal. But he said the Government had been spearheading moves to reduce debt to Third World nations and had written off £1 billion. He would be pressing the International Monetary Fund to do more by selling gold reserves.

The campaigners are calling for a two-year moratorium on mining on the site in an open letter to Sir Derek Birkin, chairman of RTZ, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Agency Minister, and Albert Zafy, President of Madagascar.

The project, a joint venture between the Malagasy Government and a subsidiary of the British company called QIT, will mine mineral sands containing ilmenite, an important source of titanium dioxide used to whiten toothpaste, paint and washing powders.



Demonstrators heckle Kenneth Clarke in London as Dr Chris Orengo speaks at the launching of the Madagascar forests campaign

The forest areas at risk cover 4,000 hectares and are considered globally significant for flowers, reptiles and mammals such as lemurs. "There will be mass extinctions," Mr Juniper said.

Paul Hellyer, who was working with Mr Lees in Madagascar before he died,

said local people believe there was no alternative to the mine: "Madagascar is in dire straits and the people are desperately poor. They want a short-term cash injection even at very unfavourable terms to themselves." The campaigners, which include the World Wide Fund for Nature, believe British aid money should be spent on improving eco-tourism in the area. Britain gives less than £1 million directly to Madagascar, mainly for English language teaching.

Sir David said: "I have travelled in these forests and I know well what amazing wonders they contain. I am convinced that it would be economic folly to exchange something that would bring revenues from eco-tourism in perpetuity for a payment that will end within 40 years."

A spokesman for RTZ said yesterday that it still had to assess the economic and social implications of the proposals. The company was studying several options, including one that would remove close to half of the littoral forests and replace them with commercial woodlands. The woodlands would boost the local economy and remove pressure from the remaining, indigenous forests, an RTZ spokesman said.

Parkhurst breakout 'aimed at Howard'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

KEITH ROSE, one of the Parkhurst escapees, claims in a newspaper letter published yesterday that the breakout was intended to embarrass the Home Secretary.

In the letter written on prison notepaper less than two weeks after his recapture, Rose says: "The timing of the escape was plotted to cause maximum embarrassment to Michael Howard. I mean, how could we fail to act in the week he was getting such a hammering over Fred West?"

He writes to the crime reporter for *The Western Morning News*, Plymouth, that he acted after his campaign to prove his innocence was curtailed. "Something had to give and it was Parkhurst's security," Rose is originally from Devon and has written to the paper before.

He comments on John Marriott being moved from the governorship of Parkhurst: "I think it is totally wrong for Marriott to carry the can for Howard. It is Howard's policies and attitude, that of using prisoners as political pawns, which is causing the deep unrest in English prisons."

Minister orders inquiry over rise in expulsions

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

AN INVESTIGATION into a big increase in the number of disruptive pupils expelled from state schools was ordered yesterday by the Government.

Eric Forth, the Education Minister, is anxious to discover the extent of discipline problems in schools and whether miscreants "drop through the educational net" after they are permanently excluded.

The move follows concern that schools are locked in a spiral of ill-discipline despite ministerial appeals that head teachers should use expulsion only as a weapon of last resort. Statistics disclosed by *The Times* in October showed that expulsions more than doubled in the academic year 1992-93.

A survey by school inspectors of 428 English secondaries suggested more than 8,000 pupils were expelled nationally, with children ordered out of school for fixed periods on more than 70,000 occasions.

Mr Forth is also keen to establish whether local authorities are responding to the 1993 Education Act, which placed a new duty on them to provide education for children not attending school for disciplinary and other reasons.

Critics claim councils have been slow to set up so-called pupil referral units because the Government has failed to provide enough money.

Mr Forth said the survey by Canterbury Christ Church College research centre would provide a national picture of the provision for permanently excluded children and the effect of new measures. He said: "I want to know how local education authorities are implementing this new duty. These children must not be allowed to drop through the educational net." The researchers would investigate the number of expulsions in response to "concern" about the number of children being removed.

Eamonn O'Kane, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, welcomed Mr Forth's recognition of the scale of the discipline problem. He said: "Teachers have been bearing the brunt of a burgeoning 'yob culture' in schools. I hope the inquiry will be quick so ministers can concentrate on finding ways to ease the problem."

Why sex is bad news for female fruit fly

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE mating game is not much fun for the female fruit fly: the more she mates, the sooner she dies. A chemical transferred with the males' sperm to increase the number of eggs the females lay also reduces their willingness to mate with other males, destroys sperm left by earlier partners and — ultimately — kills them.

Tracy Chapman of University College London and colleagues unearthed this unattractive example of male chauvinism in a series of experiments reported in *Nature*. It is, they say, a strategy by which males compete with one another to ensure that their genes get an increased share in the next generation.

Dr Chapman carried out the experiments by exposing the females either to males that produce seminal fluid but no sperm or to those that produce sperm but no other products. The females mated with the former lived significantly shorter lives.

The females appear to be the unwilling victims of a battle for genetic supremacy among the males. Nature clearly is not fair.

No resting place for Lakes legend

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A DISPUTE has broken out over a memorial to Alfred Wainwright, the man who put the Lake District on the map for walkers.

Since he died four years ago, campaigners have been pressing for a suitable memorial to the writer who charted dozens of routes across the fells. They say five possible sites have been rejected by the Lake District National Park.

Bernard Oakley, treasurer of the Wainwright Trust, said: "We have been trying for four years to find somewhere for a memorial, but we are facing an impossible situation now. All we can do is write back to

the council and see if they have any other sites which would be considered suitable for the memorial. If they don't, then it is the end of the road."

He said sites around Windermere, including Ellerthwaite Gardens, Baddeley Clock Gardens and Bowness promenade, had all been turned down as "inappropriate". The national park authority, however, said it had received only one formal application from the trust for a memorial at Orrest Head, which it had dismissed.

Norman Atkins, a senior planning officer, said a memorial to Wainwright would

clutter up the landscape. "The site was turned down because there are two or three memorials already at Orrest Head and another would simply clutter up the area."

"There is enormous pressure on us to put memorials to all sorts of people across the Lakes and generally we discourage it on the fells," Mr Atkins added.

"We are not against a site on principle but we are attempting to stop the urbanisation of the countryside and we want it to retain its wide open character. It could escalate into a serious problem if we didn't exercise control."



Wainwright: search for a memorial site

Graham Greene's archives and books are bought by US library

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN has lost the chance to buy Graham Greene's personal library and archive of books, sketches and letters. The collection, which includes 60,000 documents and 3,000 books covered with his notes and annotations, has been sold to the John J. Burns Library of Boston College, Massachusetts.

Greene covered margins, flyleaves and every conceivable space in books with mercurial hand-written observations, skeletal plots, memos to himself and word counts for novels in progress.

Rupert Powell, of Bloomsbury Book Auctions, which handled the sale with the Gloucester Road Bookshop in London, said of the enigmatic writer, a Roman Catholic convert: "A reading of his papers blows away the layers of protection and reveals the man as he really was. It is good to have kept it together. It's a shame it couldn't be kept in this country. But we gave them a lot of opportunity to come up with the right money. Unfortunately they couldn't make it."

The British Library and other American universities are believed to have been interested. Mr Powell said



Nicholas Denny with some of the Greene collection in his bookshop

an export licence would not be needed, as all the material is less than 50 years old. Before his death in 1991, Greene passed the library to Nicholas Denny, a nephew, who owns the Gloucester Road Bookshop and who catalogued the collection. It is believed that Greene wanted it to be sold to raise money for his much-loved sister, who had a stroke in 1989.

Robert O'Neill, director of the John J. Burns Li-

brary, housed on the campus of Boston College, which is the largest Jesuit university in the world, said that negotiations lasted for at least six months. No one would disclose the price yesterday, but it is thought to be about £1 million.

The acquisition will be paid for mostly by private donations. Dr O'Neill said that a principal benefactor, a "good friend" of the university, wished to remain anonymous. "We would not

use tuition-driven monies for this purpose." The library has an active purchasing programme. Among its other recent acquisitions are Yeats's papers and letters from Samuel Beckett.

"One of our principal collections is of British Catholic authors — men and women whose works somehow reflect their Catholic experience," Dr O'Neill said. The library hopes to extend its Greene collection with memorabilia.

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Rumbold defends MPs being paid by lobby firms

By MICHAEL DYNES

POLITICIANS should be allowed to work for parliamentary lobby organisations, Dame Angela Rumbold, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, said yesterday.

MPs should have written contracts that spell out the type of service they are providing and how much they are paid. But they should not advocate a particular cause, Dame Angela told Lord Nolan's inquiry into standards in public life.

Her statement contradicted evidence by the first four witnesses at the inquiry, who said that commercial lobbying should be prohibited to increase confidence in Britain's representative institutions.

Dame Angela resigned as a director of Decision Makers, a parliamentary lobbying organisation, after allegations in October about her role in the Government's choice of the intermediate station for the Channel Tunnel rail link at Ebbsfleet, Kent. She told the ten members of the inquiry her salary as a lobbyist rose from £8,000 to £12,000 during the two years she was employed by Decision Makers.

Criticism of her involvement with the company followed allegations by the London Evening Standard that its access to ministers and civil servants gave Ebbsfleet an unfair advantage over the alternative location at Strat-

ford, east London. Dame Angela said that she had nothing to hide about her work for Decision Makers. She told the inquiry that her decision to resign had been "agonising", but she felt that she had no alternative as the controversy surrounding her was damaging the company.

Defending MPs' work for lobbying firms, Dame Angela said: "I cannot imagine a situation where an MP simply has to concentrate on the legislative process and their constituency once they are elected. If that happens, I don't understand how they can advance as individuals unless they understand how the rest of the world works." Her role

had been restricted to advising Maureen Tomison, Decision Makers' chairman, how best to present the case for Ebbsfleet. At no time did she lobby ministers and civil servants on behalf of the company.

Ms Tomison told the inquiry that it would have been better to have given Dame Angela a written contract. However, "we were both determined that her work for us should be totally above board". One reform the inquiry should consider was a register of professional lobbying companies with access to the Commons, she added.

Stewart Steven, Editor of the Evening Standard, said that a confidential Decision Makers document had come into the paper's possession. Under questioning, he said that while efforts were made to establish the document's authenticity, the truth of its claims were less certain.

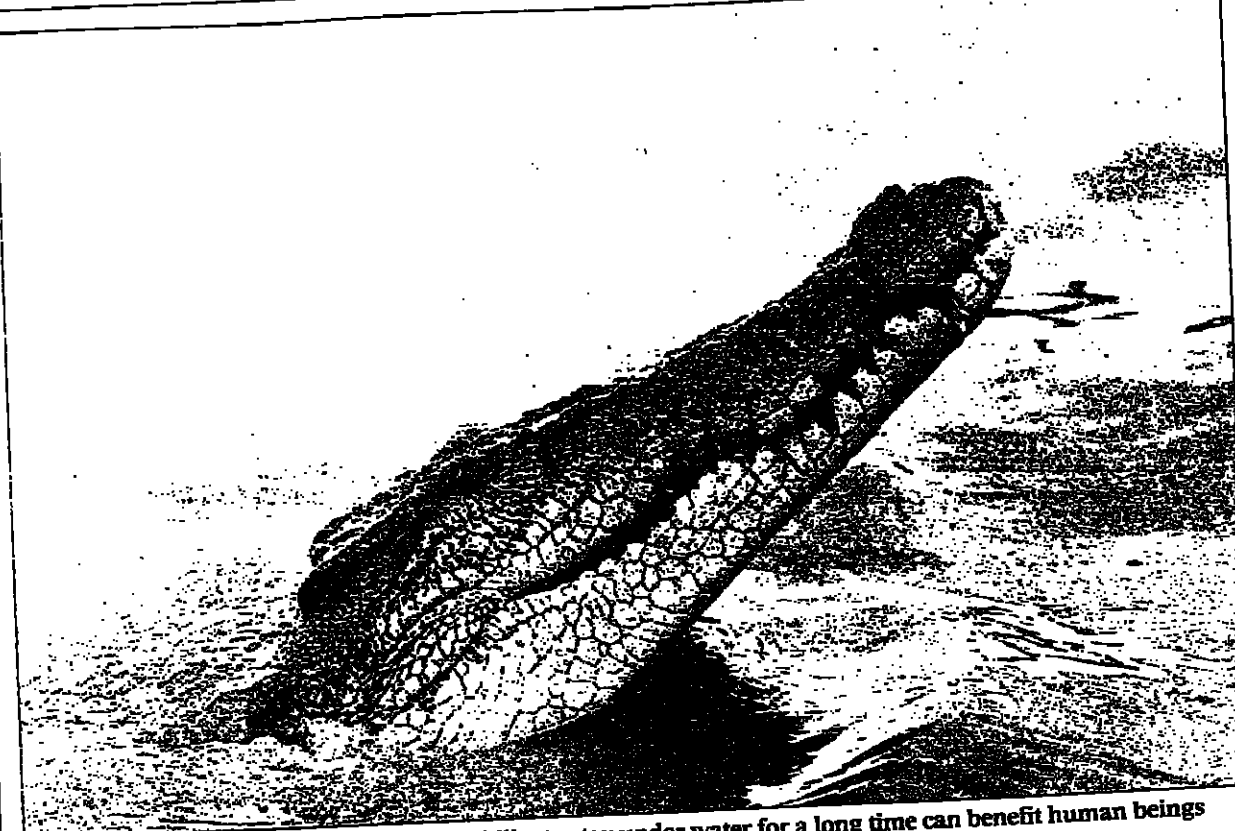
The document claimed to have raised the profile of a client, Blue Circle Properties, by providing a personal briefing to John Major. "Assuming the No. 10 meeting took place, this is going way over the top," he said. "If he had a meeting with one group of lobbyists, the other side should have been in to pitch their case."

The hearing continues today.



Dame Angela yesterday received £12,000 a year

Politics, page 10



Scientists believe that the crocodile's ability to stay under water for a long time can benefit human beings

Crocodile key to blood substitute

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS at Cambridge have discovered why crocodiles can stay under water for more than an hour. The reptiles' secret could be used to create better artificial blood for human use.

The key ingredient has already been engineered into human haemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying molecule in the blood. The resultant form of haemoglobin, nicknamed Scuba by the scientists, could have many applications, although the prospect of a submarine race of humans is not among them, according to Dr Kiyoshi Nagai, who carried out the work with Noburu Komiyama at the

Medical Research Council's molecular biology laboratory in Cambridge and with other colleagues in Osaka and at the University of York.

They report in *Nature* that crocodile haemoglobin contains a short sequence of amino acids that forces the blood to give up more oxygen by preventing the haemoglobin from clinging on to it. In this way, carbon dioxide is mopped up and a steady supply of oxygen provided from stores in the blood.

The two scientists used a variety of techniques to show that only 12 amino acids need be changed to create the

bicarbonate effect in human haemoglobin, even though its overall structure is very different from that of crocodiles. They then produced Scuba, the modified human haemoglobin, incorporating the changes.

The sequence could be important in a blood substitute developed by Dr Nagai and his team, in collaboration with the US company Somatogen. This artificial haemoglobin is now in clinical trials in the US and could be in use by the end of the century, easing pressure on blood donations and eliminating fears of infection.

Families alerted as meningitis kills girl

By CATHERINE MILTON

A GIRL of 15 has died from meningitis, bringing the number of children's deaths from the disease to at least five since Christmas.

Wendy Martin died in hospital after becoming ill last week at Holyhead High School on Holy Island, Gwynedd. The cause of her death at the weekend was confirmed as bacterial meningitis, but a spokesman for Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor, said the precise type of bacteria had not yet been identified.

Wendy's mother Rose Martin, from Holyhead, said: "I just can't believe this has happened. It feels as though my life has gone down the drain. Wendy was a wonderful daughter."

The parents of pupils at Holyhead High have been sent letters and leaflets warning that Wendy was suffering from meningitis and describing common symptoms.

Dr Mark Walker, consultant in communicable diseases at the public health laboratories in Bangor, visited the school to advise staff. He said: "I do not have much to add except to underline the need for prompt treatment."

Margaret Chantrell, headmistress of Holyhead High, said: "The entire school is very sad. Dr Walker and I composed a joint letter to all the parents and enclosed a leaflet telling them of the symptoms to watch for."

Bottomley extends hospital targets to out-patients

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITALS in the NHS were set new targets yesterday of shorter waiting times and more comfort and privacy for patients.

In an extension to the Patient's Charter, Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, announced the first national out-patients target. Nine out of ten patients referred by GPs must be given an appointment within three months and all must be seen within six months.

Mrs Bottomley also announced that the guarantee of a maximum 18 months' wait for hip, knee and cataract operations is to be extended to all operations. The previous limit was two years. The targets take effect from April 1. Launching the new charter, which sets a maximum four-

■ The Health Secretary claims significant success in waiting times but critics say there is a hidden gap not covered by figures

hour "trolley wait" for patients who need admission from accident and emergency departments, Mrs Bottomley said that two years ago 50,000 patients had been waiting more than two years for treatment. "They've all gone. Now we have a new guarantee of treatment within 18 months. It is a dramatic achievement to set the [two-year] target, meet it and beat it."

She said the new target for out-patient waiting times "raised a huge challenge" for hospitals. However, figures released by the Health Department show that 83 per cent of out-patients are given appointments within three months and 96 per cent within

six months. The out-patients target is intended to answer Labour criticisms that NHS waiting lists are being artificially kept down by delays before patients are seen by consultants.

However, it emerged yesterday that there is a gap not covered by any charter guarantee between a first out-patient appointment and admission to the waiting list, during which investigations are carried out.

In the case of heart patients requiring coronary bypass surgery, who have a new guarantee of treatment within a year, Mrs Bottomley confirmed that the clock would start ticking from the moment they were added to the waiting list for surgery. She conceded that they could face a wait for tests, such as an angiogram, ordered by the consultant at the first out-patient appointment to determine the extent of disease. "Hospitals may need protocols for getting investigations," she said.

The British Cardiac Society said that it was regrettable that no attention had been paid to the waiting time for investigations and described the new standard for coronary bypasses as "far from satisfactory". The society said heart patients should be seen within a month of referral by a GP, investigated within a further three months and operated on within a further six months.

The charter provides a new right for patients to insist on admission to a single-sex ward. Other standards cover hospital food, children's services and community care.

The British Medical Association said that the health service budget was "insufficient to meet the expectations raised by the charter".



Mrs Bottomley launching the standards yesterday

Private practice contributes to waiting lists, says NHS expert

By OUR HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

WAITING times to see most types of surgeon have increased sharply over the past decade, coinciding with the growth of private practice, says a former government adviser on the NHS.

Figures produced by John Yates, an expert on waiting lists, show that the average waiting time to see an orthopaedic surgeon has risen from 16 to 25 weeks since 1984 and for a consultant ophthalmologist from 15 to 19 weeks. Last autumn, almost one in ten orthopaedic clinics was booking patients more than a year in advance. Some hospitals give dates two years away.

Demand for private treatment in both specialties is high. "Patients and their relatives see a possible relation-

ship between waiting months to see a surgeon whom they could see tomorrow if money changed hands, and the fact that the surgeons have flexible contracts that allow them to work for two employers [public and private] on the same day," Mr Yates said.

A survey of surgeons in the two specialties showed they spent an average of three half-days a week seeing private patients, not including operating time. Some spent half the week on private work. Presenting the findings on Channel Four's *Dispatches* last night, Mr Yates said some surgeons were doing less than three or four operations a month for the NHS. It was possible that private practice "actually makes a waiting list

occur and that it suits surgeons to have a long waiting list so that people can jump the queue," he said.

Professor John Neoptolmos, Professor of Surgery at the University of Birmingham, said: "I think few of us would disagree that it is going on at the moment. It is symptomatic of the demoralisation within the NHS."

Mr Yates, an NHS management consultant based at the University of Birmingham, was appointed by the Health Department in 1990 to help its drive to cut waiting lists. However, he resigned the following year over disagreements about how the reductions were to be achieved.

Body and Mind, page 17

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Clarity and reassurance required to satisfy suspicious Unionists

Why has the Northern Irish peace process got into trouble? In particular, why does the problem lie with the Ulster Unionists, Mr Major's recent allies in key House of Commons votes? The difficulties surrounding last night's vote on the new European fishing deal reveal that the Prime Minister can no longer be confident about Mr Moynihan's support. The clue to all this is the framework document for the future of Northern Ireland, at present being negotiated.

Any new settlement for Northern Ireland will work better if the Unionists do not have a bitter taste in their mouth, writes Paul Bew

Another area of concern is the negotiating difficulty about the European dimension of Northern Ireland's affairs; it has been suggested that in certain circumstances Northern Ireland's interests in Brussels could be represented by Dublin. Given the increasing sensitivity of the European issue within the Tory party, the Prime Minister is unlikely to be enthusiastic about this and other similar Irish nationalist notions. It should be remembered that the SDLP proposal in the 1992 talks for a direct EC role on the governance of Northern Ireland would probably have been unacceptable to the British Government, even in the unlikely event of

a unionist acceptance. Nevertheless, this is an issue of the greatest sensitivity — not to say bureaucratic complexity — and many suspicions abound. The utmost clarity will be required if it is to be resolved without pain. On the face of it, the Unionists have a case. Any new Ulster settlement, including North-South arrangements which unionists have already conceded in principle, will work better if the Unionists do not have a bitter taste in their mouth. But the British Government, including those elements within it who have been most sympathetic to the unionist case, tends to see the framework document as being above all about the

maintenance *ad infinitum* of the IRA ceasefire. The point of reference here is a new republican discourse which concedes, in the words of Mitchell McLaughlin, that a united Ireland is 'not the only democratic option'. There is a further irony here. Mr Bruton, the new Irish Premier, has a fine moderate record on Northern Ireland; like Sir Patrick Mayhew, he has been a stern critic of schemes of joint authority. But as part of the package envisaged in the framework document, the Irish Government has to deliver a substantive change via a referendum in the articles of the Irish constitution which claim Northern Ireland. Fiamma Fail, now in opposition, is already adopting a more nationalist tone and a successful referendum would be almost an impossibility in a context where Fiamma Fail can argue that the Bruton government has settled for too little. Unfortunately, the

broad nationalist obsession with outmanoeuvring the unionists remains an important part of the political scene. More understandably, Irish officials are bound to feel that they cannot exchange constitutional realities (such as the Anglo-Irish Agreement) for institutions, however attractive, solely dependent on unionist good will: after all, the withdrawal of that good will led to the collapse of the power-sharing experiment in 1974. In the aftermath of the decision by Tony Blair to drop the overture nationalist Kevin McNamara as Labour Northern Ireland spokesman, the Unionists can contemplate a Labour government with considerably more equanimity. Nevertheless, the Major Cabinet is about as unionist as its ethos as British politics can possibly produce in the 1990s. Mr Moynihan is fully aware of this. He will be reluctant, therefore, to play a role in bringing this parliament to a

premature end — before, for example, a possible multi-party negotiation of an Ulster settlement. But he may not be able to control an increasingly sour unionist public mood. Local unionist sentiment has been offended by proposals to change the name and structure of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the dropping of the national anthem from the Queen's University of Belfast graduation ceremonies. Quiet apart from the real issues involved in these debates, unionists unfortunately see it all as part of a process whereby the union survives as a political reality (including its massive economic support for nationalists and unionists in the province) but symbolic expressions of this reality are increasingly curtailed. This uneasy feeling is shared by many who would disapprove of any display of Orange or loyalist triumphalism. This touches a raw nerve, for as Joseph Chamberlain observed of

Irish unionists during the home rule crisis: "They are proud to belong to a greater country... they cling to the traditions and history of the UK, which is just as much their possession and heritage as it is ours." It is Mr Moynihan's difficult task to manage this volatile public mood in a world where no English leading politician could easily reproduce the warmth of Chamberlain. Nobody — least of all the British Government and Irish nationalists — has anything to gain from a substantial increase in unionist alienation. There is, therefore, an explicit need for some precise reassurance at this rather delicate moment. The sober and responsible Mr Moynihan also has a responsibility — to educate unionist public opinion on the compromises which inevitably lie ahead. □ Paul Bew is professor of history at Queen's University Belfast

Labour promises certain defeat for 'hated' rail sell-off

By Jonathan Prynn and Alice Thomson

LABOUR is determined to stop rail privatisation "in its tracks" before the next general election, the Government was warned yesterday.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, appealed to 60 Tory backbenchers in marginal seats to back the Opposition in the lobbies or face the wrath of their constituents over "this hated privatisation". However, a Labour motion, calling on the Government to honour assurances that there will be no cuts in the number of stations selling tickets to anywhere in the country, was defeated by 317 votes to 232, a government majority of 35.

Opening the Labour-initiated debate, Mr Meacher said that he was seeking a "clear, simple and straightforward" pledge from ministers that earlier promises on through-ticketing would not be broken. At present there were more than 1,300 rail stations selling through tickets but the Rail Regulator, John Swift, was expected to limit this to just 294 "core-stations". While this was a clear breach of minis-

trial promises, the Transport Secretary, Brian Mawhinney, had admitted he was powerless to do anything about it. Mr Meacher told Dr Mawhinney: "You, in all your splendid isolation and irrelevance, sit there like a beached whale — a monument to the crass ineptitude of a privatisation that is fast running out of control."

If the proposals went ahead passengers would be forced to travel up to 50 miles out of their way to buy tickets. Although the Kyle of Lochalsh, with only a handful of train services a day, would be classified a core station, Lichfield, with 185 trains a day would not.

He said Labour's New Year attack on rail privatisation was "a campaign on which we are not going to let up until we have stopped this detested privatisation in its tracks by the next election".

Replying for the Government, Dr Mawhinney assured the House that the government's commitment to through-ticketing remained "absolutely clear." It had been

a constant theme of the Government's privatisation proposals and was enshrined in the Railways Act. The regulator was obliged to include through-ticketing requirements in the licences he issued.

Dr Mawhinney quoted Mr Swift as dismissing suggestions that through-ticketing would only be available from 294 stations as "absolutely absurd". He insisted it was "a widespread myth" that all BR stations provided a full range of ticketing facilities. At least 1,200 were unmanned and only 440 had direct access to the seat-reservation database.

Ticket sales would not be limited to stations, Dr Mawhinney said. They could be sold on trains, by telephone, through automatic machines and through travel agents. However, Dr Mawhinney would not be drawn on his reaction to a recommendation from the Rail Regulator that through-ticketing should be reduced.

"I am not going to anticipate what the regulator will do, by way of a response," he said.



MPs torn between two loyalties

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

THE three Tory Cornish MPs were yesterday torn between defending the interests of their constituents or remaining loyal to the Government.

David Harris (St Ives), Sebastian Coe (Falmouth

and Camborne) and Robert Hicks (Cornwall South East) are in highly vulnerable seats with small majorities.

On present trends, Mr Harris, a former political correspondent, with a majority of only 1,600 looks almost certain to be defeated at the next election. Mr Coe, with a majority of 3,000, may live to regret leaving the sporting world for politics, and Mr Hicks fares only slightly better with a majority of 7,000.

Over recent years Tory MPs in the South West have been struggling to fight off a Liberal Democrat assault in the region but Labour is strengthening its position there and Mr Coe faces a close three-way race in Falmouth. The former interna-

tional athlete has a double dilemma because he is also a parliamentary private secretary to Roger Freeman and Nicholas Soames and would have to resign if he voted against the Government.

Many of their constituents are dependent on the fishing industry and expect their MPs to fight on their behalf. Cornish fishermen are angry at the EU deal to allow the Spanish greater access to British fishing waters. At the last meeting of council ministers, William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, abstained on the deal, which is expected to result in substantial job losses and a reduction in Britain's fishing fleet.

The Cornish MPs have been highly critical of Mr

Waldegrave's stand and made clear that they would vote against the Government, rather than abstain, unless he came up with extra compensation money or extended British fishing rights. They met the minister again yesterday, seeking further concessions as it became clear that a compensation deal alone was unlikely to appease the fishermen.

They were hopeful of securing enough from Mr Waldegrave to be able to remain loyal to the Government. Mr Waldegrave also appeared happy to help the three MPs to save face with their own constituents by linking the extra cash closely to a vote the Government looked almost certain to win.

Commons inquiry to call Preston

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

A COMMONS inquiry into a former minister's free holiday will gather pace next week when MPs demand more details of his stay at the Paris Ritz hotel.

MPs investigating allegations against Neil Hamilton, former corporate affairs minister, will call Peter Preston, editor-in-chief of *The Guardian* and the *Observer*, to give evidence on *The Guardian's* role in disclosing details of Mr Hamilton's hotel stay.

The investigation began after Mr Hamilton was accused of breaching Commons rules by failing to disclose a free holiday at the Ritz, owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods chief. MPs on the Commons Members' Interests Select Committee have failed to reach a conclusion after three months in which detailed written evidence has been submitted and Labour members are pressing for more information about Mr Hamilton's relationship with Mr Al Fayed.

The decision to take oral evidence increases the likelihood of Mr Al Fayed and Mr Hamilton being called. Labour members are keen to press Mr Hamilton over separate allegations, which he denies, that he received Harrods vouchers from Mr Al Fayed. The committee's call for Mr Preston to give evidence will coincide with a separate investigation, by the Commons Privileges Committee, into his decision to send a facsimile of a letter on Commons notepaper, purporting to be from Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Treasury Secretary. Mr Preston is to be called before that committee also.



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Big Ben given a brighter outlook

THE Palace of Westminster's clock tower is to be given a new sparkle with the four faces being lit using new technology from dusk today.

The lighting will come from a type of energy-efficient fluorescent bulb that is expected to save £1,000 a year on electricity costs. The change is also intended to ensure that the clock will still stand out when flood-lighting around the rest of the building is improved later this year.

Ray Powell, the Labour chairman of the Commons accommodation and works committee, said: "It will save us money and it's appropriate that Big Ben should give a lead. The clock and its tower are seen by millions of tourists and our own citizens and it should be seen at its best."

The original clock was illuminated by Victorian gas lamps. Electric light was introduced in 1906, and in 1957 cold cathode lamps were installed as the most efficient technology of the time.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: Questions to environment ministers in the Commons were followed by debates on Labour motions of through-ticketing, under rail privatisation and access by Spanish and Portuguese fishing vessels to British waters.

In the Lords, there were Labour-initiated debates on local authority services and sport facilities in the UK.

TODAY: Commons questions to the Northern Ireland Minister and the Prime Minister will be followed by a statement on the following week's Commons business from Tony Newton, the Leader of the House. There will also be debate on a legal aid order and a farm and conservation grant order.

In the Lords, the environment bill will be in committee.

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New Dini Cabinet lurches into office with lira tumbling

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AMBERTO DINI, the Italian Prime Minister, chaired his first Cabinet meeting yesterday, but Silvio Berlusconi, his predecessor and erstwhile patron, again threatened to topple the day-old Government unless a general election is called in June.

The lira tumbled on foreign exchanges yesterday and share values on the Milan bourse slid amid the renewed uncertainty. Signor Dini, 63, installed himself at Palazzo Chigi, the Prime Minister's office, and Signor Berlusconi left after inspecting an honour guard of carabinieri cadets in the courtyard.

Outside in the Piazza Colonna, a few demonstrators cheered the media tycoon as he left, ending nine months of troubled government characterised by attempts to control public broadcasting and emaculate magistrates fighting corruption.

Among the protesters was Domenico Gramazio, an MP from the "post-Fascist" National Alliance, and another, Enzo Savarese, from Signor Berlusconi's Forza Italia. The two MPs closed the imposing entrance doors of Palazzo Chigi in protest at what they called a "white coup" against Signor Berlusconi, but were ejected by the police. One officer was injured.

Signor Dini's Government, consisting of 22 technocrats, was sworn in by President Scalfaro on Tuesday night at the Quirinal Palace. However, it is doubtful whether it will

survive confidence votes in parliament next week. Even if it does win the votes, it is likely to be highly vulnerable to subsequent parliamentary defeat, meaning that it will probably be short-lived.

In a chilling show of Machiavellian manoeuvring, Signor Berlusconi nominated Signor Dini, his Treasury Minister, to the head of state to succeed him, only to announce on Tuesday that he would not support his former disciple because none of the ministers in Signor Berlusconi's Cabinet were to be retained.

Signor Dini has said he is optimistic that his experiment will succeed, but even he was clearly surprised by the volte-face of the former Prime Minister.

Observers predicted that Signor Dini should be able to command 287 votes in the Chamber of Deputies by virtue of support from the former communist Democratic Party of the Left, the centrist Italian Popular Party and the devolutionist Northern League. The "loyalists" supporting Signor Berlusconi from Forza Italia, the National Alliance and the tiny Christian Democrat Centre party command 283 votes. A handful of votes by dissidents within the Northern League unhappy about the withdrawal of support for Signor Berlusconi by Umberto Bossi, their leader, could tip the balance against Signor Dini, however.

Signor Berlusconi changed tack yesterday and offered to

support the Government if President Scalfaro calls a general election for June 11. The head of state is opposed to an early poll because he wants Signor Dini to introduce economic and institutional reforms as well as legislation to curtail Signor Berlusconi's virtual monopoly over private television.

"We want a certain, precise commitment that there is a fixed date when one will return to democratic normality with elections," Signor Berlusconi said. "If there is this date, we will have no difficulty in supporting this Government." Signor Berlusconi claimed that President Scalfaro had promised a June poll.

Il Messaggero asked whether Italy would share the fate of Germany's Weimar Republic. "The convulsions that shake the body politic in these hours preage nothing good," the newspaper added.



Silvio Berlusconi leaves Palazzo Chigi, the Prime Minister's office, yesterday

Stoltenberg sees peace slip away as Serbs change tack

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE vicious circle of war and truce in Bosnia seemed set to continue yesterday, as recent hopes for an early settlement faded.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, the United Nations peace negotiator, said after ceasefire violations in Sarajevo and Srebrenica: "I am not as optimistic as I was a couple of days ago."

The December 31 truce negotiated by Jimmy Carter, the former US President, had raised hopes in Europe. Washington and Moscow that the deadlock in the peace process had broken. But Mr Stoltenberg made clear that the momentum towards serious peace talks had slipped into reverse once more.

"It is not as encouraging as only a few days ago," he said in Geneva. "Even if you get a ceasefire which works it doesn't guarantee anything. No one but the parties themselves can make peace. We can only assist in the process that leads to this."

The Bosnian Serbs, now ostracised by their former backers in Serbia, have also begun to change their de-

mands. "Recently they are not so interested in a confederation with Serbia, but in an independent entity in Bosnia-Herzegovina," Mr Stoltenberg said. "It is more unclear today exactly what the Serbs want."

Officials from the Contact Group of Britain, France, Germany, America and Russia are meanwhile due to meet in Geneva today and to hold talks with representatives of the Islamic Conference Organisation.

Mr Stoltenberg appeared to agree that the Contact Group plan to divide Bosnia was now negotiable. Both sides were presented with the plan last summer on a take it or leave it basis. The Serbs, who rejected it, have now been told the plan is the basis for negotiation.

Mr Stoltenberg said that the Government of President Tudjman in Croatia was "close to an agreement" with separatist Serbs living in the Krajina region of the republic. But the move towards a long-term settlement in Croatia could be undermined by Zagreb's decision not to renew the UN mandate there.

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Tories in disarray on Santer team vote

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN STRASBOURG

FRESH dissent broke out yesterday in the depleted ranks of Tory MEPs as the European Parliament voted to approve the new European Commission and to back away from its threat to paralyse the working of the European Union.

Members of the 18-strong Tory group voted three different ways after failing to agree a common line earlier in the day. After several days of fraught negotiations, the parliament voted 416-103 to endorse the Commission, which will be headed by Jacques Santer and will take office next Monday.

Five Conservatives refused to accept the advice of their own leaders and of the Christian Democrat bloc to which they are linked and voted against the Commission or abstained. One Tory MEP said he thought that an agreement had been made that all the Conservatives would vote the same way. But James Provan, the group's whip, said last night that members had been left free to vote as they chose.

Mr Provan himself voted to reject the Santer Commission. "We have been led up the hill and all the way down again, Grand Old Duke of York style," he said last night. "We have missed a chance to win extra powers for the parliament and have backed down after achieving nothing." Mr Provan added that the MEPs could and should have insisted on having the right to dismiss individual EU commissioners.

Shaikhs ask for asylum in Britain

BY MICHAEL BRYNON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE radical Shia cleric whose arrest in Bahrain last December caused riots has arrived in Britain and asked for political asylum.

Shaikh Ali Salman, the 27-year-old Islamist opposition leader, arrived in London from Dubai on Tuesday evening, after being deported to the United Arab Emirates. He was accompanied by two other activists, Shaikh Hamza al-Deiri and Shaikh Haidar al-Shiri.

Some 422 people were arrested during the demonstrations in Bahrain on December 5, in which at least one policeman and four civilians were killed. A spokesman for the London-based opposition Bahrain Freedom Movement said yesterday that police crackdowns were continuing, and two mosques had been stormed.

The three Shia radicals have no previous connection with Britain. Their arrival here, adding to the large number of Islamic activists who have made their exile headquarters in London, has put the Government in an embarrassing position. Bahrain is an important market for British exports and Britain has a close political and military relationship with the Government. Nicholas Soames, the Minister for the Armed Forces, has just paid a visit to Bahrain and held talks with the Emir.

Bahrainis do not need visas to enter Britain, and the three men were given temporary admission until their application for political asylum is considered.

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Balladur pursues presidency with prosperity pledge

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

EDOUARD BALLADUR, the French Prime Minister, basking in public favour, offered himself yesterday for election to the presidency with a pledge to heal social wounds and restore prosperity and Gallic grandeur.

M. Balladur, 65, a career technocrat with patrician demeanour, summoned television crews to his gilded office at the Hôtel Maitignon for a declaration that suggested more sitting president than aspiring candidate. His statesman's tone and trappings of power were a deliberate contrast to the abrasive campaign style of Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader who trails well behind his party colleague in the race to succeed President Mitterrand in May.

"I am not the candidate of a single party," said M. Balladur, in language redolent of General Charles de Gaulle, the founding President of modern France. "What I desire is to rally the greatest possible number of French in tolerance, open-mindedness and respect for each other."

He said that national reconciliation was the single condition for reviving France. He would work for this through public consensus for reforms that would cause no "rup-

tures" or social friction. "With all its force and all its courage, France must once again become an example for the world as it was in the times of General de Gaulle," he added. Explaining a decision which the political world has long taken for granted, M. Balladur said he had been encouraged by public support. "I am a candidate in order to prepare France for the next century, so that it enters it... in prosperity, with justice and influence", and vowed to "make France the motor of European progress, which is indispensable for our future."

The appeal reflected the qualities of reassurance and competence that have won him support since he took over the Government in "cohabitation" with the Socialist President in April 1993. M. Mitterrand's political and physical infirmity, together with a strong conservative parliamentary majority, have aided M. Balladur in assuming the aura of national leader. His ascendancy amounts to an extraordinary transformation for a man who was mocked as a pompous technocrat when he served in his only previous government post, as Finance Minister under M. Chirac in 1986-88. The offspring of a

family of Levantine bankers with French nationality, the Turkish-born M. Balladur served the Prime Minister and then President Pompidou in the 1960s and 1970s, but never stood for election until 1986.

His image as a skilful manager has ensured him support beyond the Gaullist faithful and the UDF centre-right grouping, the junior partner in government. All UDF and Gaullist ministers except four have now endorsed his presidential campaign. Polls show that many Socialist voters are likely to back M. Balladur in the absence of any plausible left-winger. The Socialists are to choose their candidate on February 5. Contenders include Henri Emmanuelli, the party leader, Jack Lang, the former Culture Minister, and Lionel Jospin, a former minister. None is thought likely to reach the electoral run-off on May 7.

M. Emmanuelli, an old-fashioned left-winger who took over the party last July, announced yesterday that he was putting himself forward as a contender. It was no secret, however, that he was reluctant to stand for what is seen as a hopeless cause. His selection by the party would prove a problem because he is due to

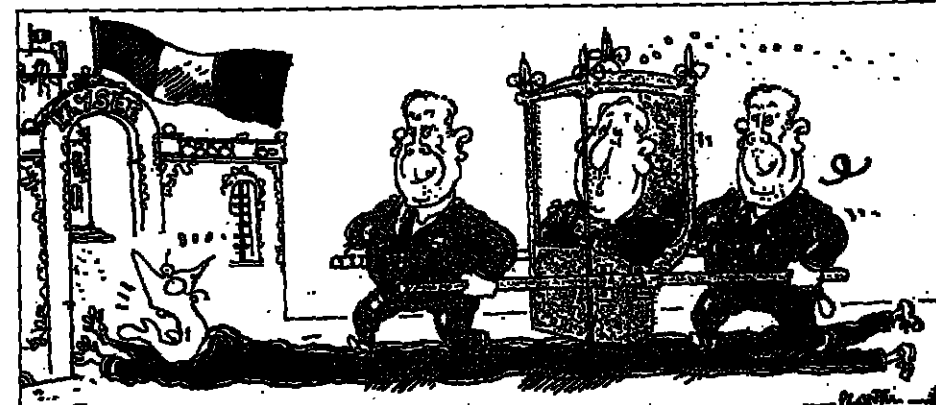


Edouard Balladur leaves a weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday en route to confirm his presidential candidacy

stand trial in March for his alleged part in corrupt money-raising.

Bernard Kouchner, meanwhile, another potential left-wing candidate, ended a six-day hospital stay after suffering a lesion of a main brain artery. Doctors said his activities would not be affected.

With the first round of the two-stage elections three months away, analysts say M. Balladur is still vulnerable. Polls suggest that nearly 60 per cent would choose him against M. Chirac, but half could change their minds.



Le Monde has Balladur riding to power over Jacques Chirac, his fellow Gaullist

Germany enticed to provide UN force

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE United Nations and Germany were yesterday at loggerheads over Bonn's possible military contribution to peacekeeping units in international crises.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, on a three-day visit to Germany, made plain that Bonn would significantly strengthen its claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council if it earmarked a contingent of soldiers for UN operations. Since a court ruling last year there has been no constitutional objection to German troops serving outside the NATO region, but Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, and Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, have stopped short of making such a commitment.

Diplomats said yesterday that Germany was ready "in principle" to take part in military operations authorised by the UN, and Herr Kinkel said that Bonn was willing to help protect UN troops when, and if, they withdrew from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

However, he reminded the UN leader yesterday that Germany was the third-largest contributor to the UN budget, supplying almost 9 per cent of the organisation's budget and said that this should be rewarded with an enhanced status.

Pope safe after jet aborts take-off

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE POPE arrived in Sydney looking tired and frail last night after a flight scare when his aircraft had to abort its take-off from Papua New Guinea.

The Pontiff's aircraft arrived ten minutes late after an engine malfunction delayed his Air New Guinea Airbus at Port Moresby, where he had completed a gruelling two-day schedule of engagements in oppressive tropical heat.

Such was the concern prompted by the aborted take-off that a spokesman for Papua New Guinea's Foreign Affairs Department went on national radio to make clear that the delay was caused by technical difficulties. He emphasised that there was no cause for alarm about the Pope's health.

About three and a half hours later the Pontiff touched down in Sydney for a 38-hour visit, to be greeted by Paul Keating, Australia's Roman Catholic Prime Minister, and thousands of well-wishers.

Looking fatigued, the Pope addressed the crowd and offered a prayer for victims of the Japanese earthquake. Two minor security scares marred his arrival. A man bearing a placard with the numbers 666 was escorted from the airport, and a second person was found to be carrying a forged media pass.

Today, a quarter of a million people are expected to gather at Sydney's Randwick race course for a Mass which will include the beatification of Mary MacKillop, who is set to be Australia's first saint.

Beatification, the penultimate step towards becoming a saint, requires the candidate to have lived an exceptional and exemplary life, to have been a religious inspiration, and to have performed a miracle. Mother Mary is claimed to have been responsible for the cure of a woman suffering from terminal leukaemia in Australia in the early 1950s.

The Papal visit is creating a headache for Australian police. Security is exceptionally tight after a series of scares during the Philippines leg of his Asian tour.

Leading article, page 19

Algeria rejects peace plan

Algiers: The Algerian Government rejected an opposition proposal to end the three-year war between Islamic militants and government forces. The proposal was drafted last week in Rome by the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front and the two largest legal opposition parties in Algeria.

"We reject it in its totality and in its details," said Ahmed Attaf, a government spokesman. "It offers nothing to address the problems of the country."

In a separate development, the Armed Islamic Group has threatened to blow up Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, to encourage the European Union to cut ties with Algeria. (AP, Reuters)

Child sex law

Taipei: The Taiwanese Justice Ministry proposed to jail clients of the island's tens of thousands of child prostitutes for up to five years, a senior official said. A Bill is to be put to the parliament. (Reuters)

Lorries looted

Kabul: Gunmen hijacked a United Nations convoy taking supplies to the Afghan capital. The UN said that its lorries were looted in territory controlled by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the rebel leader. (AP)

'Hitman' trial

Minneapolis: Qubilah Shabazz, Malcolm X's daughter, who pleaded not guilty to trying to hire a hitman to kill Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, faces trial on March 22. (Reuters, AFP)

Danube grant

Bucharest: The World Bank has given Romania a \$4.5 million (£2.8 million) grant to restore the delta of the River Danube. Part of this key wildlife area was drained under communist rule to provide farmland. (Reuters)

Pyramid jewels

Cairo: Archaeologists exploring a pyramid at Dahshour, south of Cairo, have found jewellery belonging to Queen Nefret, mother of Pharaoh Senusert III, who lived about 3,900 years ago. (Reuters)

Rifkind in Dubai talks

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN DUBAI

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Defence Secretary, held talks yesterday on military co-operation in the United Arab Emirates, an important buyer of British weapons, the official news agency said.

Mr Rifkind, who arrived earlier in the day from Saudi Arabia, met Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid al-Maktoum, the Defence Minister, for talks on "a number of bilateral issues and regional and international matters of mutual interest," the agency

said. British embassy sources said that the meeting also covered military links but they ruled out the signing of any agreement.

The UAE is one of the main Gulf importers of British weapons, including missiles, tanks and Hawk aircraft.

François Léotard, the French Defence Minister, paid a lightning visit to the Emirates yesterday and signed a defence pact, the details of which were not disclosed.

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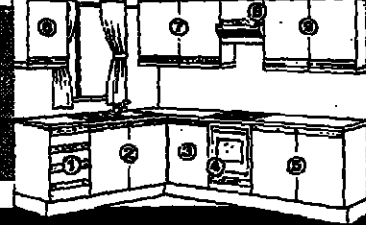
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Loan.....£478.68
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Total payable inc. deposit.....£531.90

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- 9 1000mm WALL UNIT

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Chechen leader threatens endless war as Grozny bombardment grinds on

Yeltsin promises victory and shuns Dudayev talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND ANATOL LIEVEN IN GROZNY

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday appeared to rule out any hope of a compromise with General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen rebel leader, whom he accused of genocide. In an apparent reversal of Moscow's conciliatory stance earlier this week, which culminated in peace talks and a proposed ceasefire, the Russian leader suggested that the Kremlin was still seeking a military solution to the five-week conflict in the breakaway Caucasus republic.

As Russian ground forces and aircraft kept up a fierce bombardment of the Chechen capital, Grozny, President Yeltsin made a point of emphasising that he was personally in control of the day-to-day running of the war effort, which he predicted would be over "in the coming days".

He declared: "Don't worry, the Chechen problem will be settled soon. I strictly control the Russian power bodies and I am informed daily about the situation. Nothing serious is happening in Chechnya without me." Asked if a negotiated compromise was possible with the Chechen leadership, President Yeltsin made it clear that Russia was not prepared at any stage to restart dialogue with General Dudayev, whose stubborn resistance for nearly

a month and a half has cost the Russians several hundred dead. General Dudayev, meanwhile, accused sections of the Russian security forces of deliberately wrecking negotiations for a ceasefire, due to begin yesterday. In a statement, the Chechen leader said: "Individual Russian ministers have their own armed forces and make their own policy. It is chaos in Moscow." As Mr Vladimir Udugov, the Information Minister, spoke at a

of immediate negotiations, without any pre-conditions. The general appeared to have dropped his previous demand that the Russian army withdraw immediately from Chechnya. In his words, "we just need to make a ceasefire and end the bombardment of the peaceful population, who are being killed continuously". Mr Udugov claimed it was because of the intervention of General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, and his 'clique', and

as to avoid shame and disgrace. They have told our representatives that they will flatten Grozny to get this victory."

He said that negotiations on the arrangement of a ceasefire had shifted from government level in Moscow to talks between Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen commander-in-chief, and local Russian commanders. But he said that the Chechen Government was very sceptical about the talks leading to anything.

Mr Udugov's words were echoed by Shamil Basayev, a deputy Chechen commander-in-chief. The two men were sitting together on a dirty, unmade bed in part of a former Soviet military base. Opposite them, an exhausted Chechen soldier just back from the front snored loudly. Mr Basayev's face was heavily bandaged from a shrapnel wound sustained on the front line two days ago.

In his words, "the Russian generals are like goats, banging their heads against a tree to see which will break first. They have no plans. They just no longer know how to get out of the mess they are in."

Mr Basayev said that the Russian forces were within 100 yards of the Presidential Palace, in the ruins of the Chechen National Bank, just behind the parliament building. He said fighting was taking place at every house, and the Chechens were still able in places to counter-attack and regain ground.

Both Mr Udugov and Mr Basayev ruled out any compromise over the independence of Chechnya from the Kremlin's rule. "Confederation with Russia under its present Government would be not confederation but slavery," Mr Udugov said.

Sooner or later, those responsible for the attack on Chechnya would be put on trial by the Russian people, "and they know it". The interview with the pair was repeatedly interrupted by the roar of



Ahmed Toma, three, a Grozny shelling victim, is bandaged by his mother yesterday

jets and the hammering of a Chechen anti-aircraft gun just outside the broken window.

Russian planes swooped six times over the hill on which the base is situated, either before or after dropping bombs and firing rockets on Grozny.

Some of the planes flew so low that we could count the weapons under their wings. According to the Chechens, they were Sukhoi-25 ground-attack aircraft.

Why they did not bomb the Chechen base is not clear. It makes the most visible of targets, and serves among

other things as a maintenance point for Chechen tanks. Throughout the day however, low cloud over the capital, thickened with smoke from many fires, was clearly making flying difficult.

Being in Grozny was a bit like being at the bottom of a murky grey sea, looking at menacing grey sharks diving through patches of muddy water above.

Earlier in the day, one of the planes had seemed to fly almost beneath the level of the floor of the apartment block from which we had watched the fighting in the city centre.

The Russian planes struck at Chechen military positions in the city centre and roundabouts and crossroads on the southern approaches.

One bomb fell near the main bus station, 200 yards from where dozens of civilians had gathered to wait for supplies of free bread sent in from neighbouring Ingushetia.

A car was wrecked, with one of its passengers killed and another wounded. A report yesterday said the Chechens had killed 20 Russian Marines in revenge for the killings of three Chechen prisoners.

Kremlin 'minder' reveals his power

BY RICHARD BEESTON

FOR the first time President Yeltsin's security chief has revealed that his powers extend far beyond the normal duties of a bodyguard, reinforcing suspicions that he helped to initiate the war in Chechnya and influence the President's shift to the right.

Major-General Aleksandr Kozhakov, the Kremlin's shadowy "grey cardinal", confirms in an interview published in this week's *Argumenty i Fakty* newspaper that he has become directly involved in issues of national security.

In an extraordinary admission, the normally secretive former KGB agent admitted that he was in favour of the war in the breakaway republic and critical of the role of opposition liberals and democrats.

"Measures for guaranteeing the security of the head of state need to be seen as the most important component of a general system of measures guaranteeing national security," said General Kozhakov, who is regarded as President Yeltsin's closest confidant. "That is why we are the security service and not the personal bodyguard service."

Asked if he was a member of the "party of war", the so-called clique of defence and security chiefs who initiated the Caucasus campaign, he replied: "Party of war? War with whom? If it is war with crime, corruption, illegal armed formations, then yes, I am a supporter of this party and will uncompromisingly struggle against this evil."

Although he insists in the interview that he has "never been involved in politics" and does not consider himself a politician, he does not attempt to conceal his loyalties.

"If cracks are appearing in the country it is in that part of the unstable liberals who are one-sidedly and falsely advancing the idea of defending human rights and who have shown their lack of understanding and the need for decisive action in critical situations," he said.

General Kozhakov is regarded as one of the five most powerful men in Russia. A recent article in *Obshchaya Gazeta* estimated that his Presidential Security Service, once a small branch of the KGB, is today a huge force of 25,000 men.



Kozhakov: commands force of 25,000 men

US tells Russia conflict must stop

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE IN GENEVA

THE conflict in Chechnya must be brought to an end, Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, told Andrei Kozyrev, Russia's Foreign Minister, last night after two days of talks here.

Strains between Washington and Moscow showed through the proclamation of friendship as it became clear that no date for a meeting between President Yeltsin and President Clinton had been set. Chechnya had dominated what was supposed to be a comprehensive dialogue, and both administrations are unsure who really wields power in the other's country. Mr Kozyrev said the talks took place in "a businesslike,

friendly atmosphere", but went on to say: "Sometimes our opinions differed."

A grim-looking Mr Christopher said: "The tragic situation in Chechnya inevitably formed the background to the talks." While America backed Russia's territorial integrity, it was "deeply concerned about civilian casualties and the effect of the fighting on Russia's standing in the world... the process of reconciliation must be started as soon as possible."

Mr Christopher said that President Yeltsin had promised to hold elections in Chechnya and to allow international observers. However, no explanation was given of

how or when a poll could be held in the devastated region. With America and Russia trying to weigh up one another's role in the world, Washington seems increasingly critical of Moscow's bombardment of Chechnya, while Russia is wary of Nato intentions.

Mr Christopher and Mr Kozyrev were at pains to portray their two-day meeting as amicable, yet the tensions between the two powers were too palpable to hide. "There will be no cold peace," Mr Kozyrev said earlier in the day. His talks with Mr Christopher had been "very warm" when they dined alone on Tuesday night, without even note-takers present. None the

less, America is still smarting after Mr Yeltsin's refusal last month to join the Partnership for Peace programme linking Russia with Nato. Moscow is worried by Nato's growing influence with the former Warsaw Pact countries that have joined the partnership.

Moscow has also been unnerved by the Republicans taking power in the US Congress. Mr Christopher last night met Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General. The Secretary of State was expected to brief Mr Claes on America's plan to coax Russia to join a standing commission on Nato without giving Moscow a direct say in the affairs of the alliance.

Children survive shooting by mother

FROM TOM RHODES IN NEW YORK

TWO young children lay bleeding for four days without food or water in a Florida house after their mother shot them and then killed herself. The two youngsters prayed and encouraged each other to stay alive. Jessica Fowler, 13, and her brother Adam, ten, banged a disconnected telephone against a wall and turned the television on to full volume in their attempts to attract neighbours in Orlando but without success.

They were discovered finally after a colleague of their mother, Karrie Lee Rhodes, 38, visited the house to ascertain whether she was ill. When police broke in they discovered the girl lying on the living room floor with a gunshot wound in her back. Her brother, shot through the neck, lay in a bedroom next to his mother's body.

Sergeant Mike Holloway of the Orlando police estimated the two had been without any sustenance for four days and were close to death when they were found. Both were said yesterday to be in a stable condition.

Mrs Rhodes had written a suicide note before shooting herself, giving an account of her financial concerns.

Congress passes law in a fortnight

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE new Congress has passed its first law in just 14 days, the fastest Capitol Hill has sent any legislation to the White House since 1933.

By a vote of 390-0 on Tuesday night the House joined the Senate in approving legislation requiring Congress to comply with the same employment laws that it imposes on the private sector. President Clinton intends to sign the Bill, which symbolises Republican determination to dismantle the old "Imperial Congress". The snag is that the Act may increase the costs of Congress

at a time when the Republicans are trying to cut them. More than 30,000 congressional employees must now be guaranteed at least the national minimum wage and proper working conditions. The Congressional Budget Office believes that the Act will cost the taxpayer up to \$5 million (£3.2 million) a year.

Republican attempts to enact speedily a constitutional amendment enforcing a balanced federal budget are proving less successful, and party leaders are urging conservative radio talk show hosts and the Christian Right to put

pressure on reluctant congressmen. A House vote on the amendment, the first of ten bills in Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America", was originally planned for today, but has been postponed until next week because of unexpected resistance from moderate Republicans who oppose a provision requiring a three-fifths majority before future tax increases can be voted in.

Mr Gingrich is said to be about 35 votes short of the 290 he needs to approve the amendment. An alternative version tabled by centrist Republicans and Democrats that

deletes the provision on the three-fifths majority is believed to have more than the 290 votes required.

Republican leaders are also having trouble in meeting self-imposed deadlines for unveiling their proposals for spending cuts to finance new tax breaks and to set the Government on course for a balanced budget by 2002.

They have seized on a suggestion by Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chairman, that the consumer price index exaggerates inflation by as much as 1.5 per cent a year. Rectifying that could save \$150 billion over five years by reducing statutory cost-of-living increases for those receiving social security benefits. They also want a change in accounting procedures so that estimates of the cost of tax cuts would take into account projected revenue increases.

In the meantime, Mr Clinton was lobbying hard yesterday for congressional approval of his plan to rescue the Mexican peso with \$40 billion in loan guarantees. Democratic congressmen in particular are balking at the possible use of taxpayers' dollars to bail out an economic competitor. While rank-and-file members of both parties want to extract concessions from Mexico, including a crackdown on illegal immigration. The Administration said that if Mexico's financial crisis deepened, the number of Mexicans seeking to enter America illegally could jump by nearly a third, or 430,000 this year.



Ammer of Austria's Wiener Zeitung looks at the new band playing in Washington

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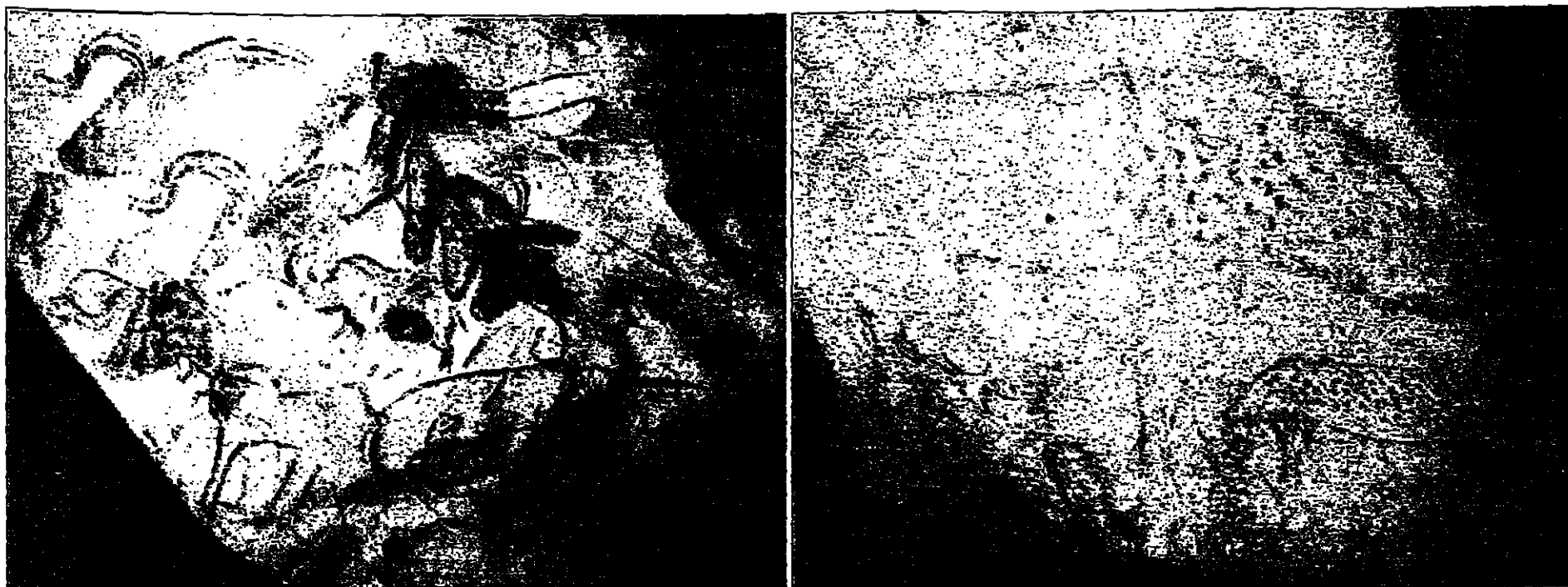
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Two sections of cave paintings recently discovered in southern France. Hyenas, bison, elephants, and reindeer are among animals depicted by the Ice Age artists

Cave art throws new light on Ice Age in France

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A PREHISTORIC painted cave, said to be comparable to Lascaux, has been found in southern France. More than 300 depictions of Ice Age animals are said to exist in an exceptional state of preservation, including bison, rhinoceros and reindeer.

The cave lies some 40 miles north-

west of Avignon, in the gorges of the River Ardèche near the small town of Vallon-Pont-d'Arc. Named the Grotte Chauvet after Jean-Marie Chauvet, the archaeological service official who discovered it on December 18 last year, the cavern is said to reach 1,600 ft into the hillside.

The paintings are thought to date to between 15,000 and 20,000 years ago on grounds of style, the same date as

Lascaux, the most famous decorated cave of all, which lies 150 miles to the west on the far side of the Massif Central and was discovered in 1940.

The Grotte Chauvet animals include more than 40 representations of an extinct species of rhinoceros, including two meeting head-on as though in combat. Bison and reindeer are also well represented, and French radio reported the identification of felines,

bear and owls as well; such carnivorous species are rarely found in Palaeolithic cave art, which mainly shows herbivores. Clusters of painted human hands are also to be seen.

The range and preservation of the paintings is "exceptional", according to Jacques Toubon, the French Culture Minister. The cave has been sealed off since its discovery and may never be opened to the public.

Singapore leaders to be world's best paid

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE is to link the pay of its top politicians and civil servants to that of the highest-paid executives in the private sector.

Within three years this will give Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, \$31.6 million (£71,000) a year, probably the highest legal income of any politician worldwide. It is nearly six times more than President Clinton's current salary of \$200,000 (£128,000) and hundreds of times higher than the official incomes of other Asian leaders.

The Prime Minister of the Philippines receives \$604 a year; the Indian Prime Minister, rich in his own right, could barely afford to run a car on his trifling official salary.

News of the increases was not well received by many Singaporeans. Mr Goh's office announced that he would forgo any salary increase for five years, which would "give him greater authority to implement the revised salaries for ministers because he will not benefit from it". His current salary is \$31.1 million.

Lee Kuan Yew, the founder of modern Singapore, who stepped down as Prime Minister four years ago, defended the increases.

Singapore had succeeded because its leaders were political entrepreneurs who dared to try new ideas, he said. It must continue to have such men in charge. They must be

recruited from among the best in the private and public sectors. It was time to abandon tradition and opt for a new method of paying ministers, he said. In the past 14 years, only four ministers had joined the Government from the private sector.

"In five to ten years, when it works and Singapore has a good government, this formula will be accepted as conventional wisdom," he added.

Singaporeans are among the world's most prosperous people. The tiny island state has a gross national product of \$38 billion. With an average per capita income of \$12,375, it has moved ahead of Britain (£11,500), the former colonial power. The 1995 World Bank Atlas lists Singapore as the ninth richest nation in terms of personal wealth. Britain is nineteenth.

Ministers and senior civil servants will have their salaries set by averaging the incomes of the four highest-paid executives in six industries — banking, accounting, engineering, law, manufacturing and multinational firms. Cabinet ministers will get a third less than the average.

"This figure will be a visible demonstration of the sacrifice involved in becoming a minister," a government White Paper claimed. Parliament approved the proposal, which will be reviewed in five years, by 61 votes to six.

Iraq's oil capacity 'has been restored'

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN MOSCOW

IRAQ has fully repaired all oil facilities destroyed in the 1991 Gulf War and will become the world's second largest exporter of crude once sanctions are lifted, Safa Hadi Jawad, its Oil Minister, claimed yesterday.

"Iraq restored all that was destroyed by the vicious 30-state aggression and dug more than 103 wells in 1994," Mr Jawad told the state-run *al-Thawra* newspaper. He said the oil embargo would soon end because it would be "irrational" for the world to ignore Iraq's reserves, second only to Saudi Arabia's.

Iraq's potential wealth has attracted a steady stream of foreign companies to Baghdad to strike deals that will be activated once sanctions are eased. But oil analysts described as "wildly exaggerated" claims that Iraq had achieved its pre-war capacity of 3.8 million barrels a day.

At an Opec meeting in November, Mr Jawad said Iraq's capacity was two million barrels. Iraqi officials have been making morale-boosting speeches on the fourth anniversary of the Gulf War, with predictions that sanctions will soon end because of divisions in the US-led coalition that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Iraq has been encouraged recently by what it perceives as signs of a split between America and Britain, hitherto Washington's staunchest ally in opposing Russian and French calls for a gradual easing of sanctions. A government-backed British trade delegation, covering water treatment, engineering, construction, transport and pharmaceuticals, plans to visit Baghdad next month.

Mexico crisis eased by reform pledge and big bond sale

By DAVID ADAMS

MEXICO'S month-old economic crisis appears to have eased after signs of renewed investor confidence and the Government's announcement of concessions designed to reform the country's authoritarian political system.

The peso has continued to recover some of its value against the dollar this week after investors responded enthusiastically to a crucial \$400 million (£255 million) auction of government bonds, deemed to be too risky only a week ago.

On Tuesday night, the ruling Institutional Revolution-

ary Party (PRI) announced a "national political accord" with opposition parties and the discussion of democratic reforms. The pact is centred on a pledge to reach "definitive" reforms of election laws, including the creation of an electoral institute independent of government control, and rules banning the PRI's use of public funds for political campaigns — controversial issues during the fraud-tainted general elections last August.

The PRI may also agree to hold new elections for governor in the states of Tabasco and Chiapas, where reports of fraud were especially widespread. In a further boost to national morale, President Zedillo announced the withdrawal of troops from Chiapas, where a year-old Indian peasant rebellion remains unresolved. The Zapatista Indian rebels responded by declaring a indefinite ceasefire in the southern state, raising hopes that peace negotiations could begin soon.

Some observers doubt that the PRI is genuinely prepared to relinquish much of the power it has accumulated over 66 years of uninterrupted rule.



Zedillo: withdrawing troops from Chiapas

Gaza talks aim to rescue peace

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

LAST year's three joint winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, his Foreign Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, will meet today on the borders of the Gaza Strip to try to rescue the peace process for which they were honoured.

On the eve of the crucial meeting at the Erez crossing point, the scene of recent clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinian police, a leading member of the 24-strong

Palestinian Authority appointed by Mr Arafat said a majority were in favour of suspending talks until a complete freeze on building at Jewish settlements was secured. Azmi Shuebi, the Palestinian Minister for Youth and Sports, told Israel radio that today's talks would be "decisive in determining the fate of the peace talks".

Pressure on the Government to halt the settlement push also came yesterday from members of the left-wing

Meretz Party, who provide vital minority support for Mr Rabin. Ran Cohen, its chief in the Knesset, said it could not participate in a government if there were not a fundamental change in settlement policy.

□ Gaza City: A Palestinian policeman in Gaza killed a colleague when his gun went off by mistake. (AFP)

□ Bonn: About 200 delegates from 40 countries began talks here on economic development and co-operation in the Middle East. (Reuters)

THE MAGNET

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Full extent of Kobe devastation becomes clear as survivors turn from relief to anger



A day after the earthquake struck Kobe, the western part of the city looks like the end of the world has come. Fires had raged unmercifully through densely packed blocks of flats

Outcry over failure of disaster relief

STUNNED Japanese last night gained their first clear picture of the extent of devastation from the powerful earthquake which hit western Japan at dawn on Tuesday. Almost two full days after the quake struck the port city of Kobe and surrounding areas, nearly 3,000 people were confirmed dead and more than 14,500 injured. With 1,030 people still missing as of early Thursday, the final death toll is likely to approach 2,000, relief workers said.

Shortages of personnel, emergency vehicles and digging equipment hampered relief efforts and contributed to a growing outcry in the media about the inadequacy of the Government's response. Survivors complained of pro-

longed — and sometimes fatal — delays by ambulances and firefighters.

In many cases volunteers dug through rubble with their bare hands to search for victims and were unable to transport the injured to hospitals. Medical staff and facilities have been in short supply, as have emergency supplies of food and water, according to first-hand accounts.

A 49-year-old man at an evacuation centre in Kobe said survivors taking refuge in the centre had gone hungry since the quake. "There isn't any food, even a slice of bread, nor sufficient water for all of us. I can't believe this city has ever considered disaster relief."

Police and military personnel were also slow to respond

Japanese emergency services failed to meet the challenge of the Kobe earthquake. Gwen Robinson writes. Survivors in the devastated city are still without adequate supplies of food, water and electricity

in the immediate aftermath of the quake, according to local reports. However, by yesterday afternoon the army began mobilising 30,000 troops to conduct rescue operations and dispense food, water and medical services. An additional 30,000 police and firefighters have also been sent to the region.

Toruichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, is today due to tour the quake-damaged areas. In an attempt to address growing criticism of relief efforts, Mr Murayama

ordered Cabinet ministers to take "urgent radical measures" to ensure utilities are restored as soon as possible and to step up the flow of emergency provisions and medical services. Mr Murayama also said the Government would provide 90 per cent of the funds for rescue operations and reconstruction in the 12 hardest hit towns and cities.

The quake completely destroyed 12,300 houses and buildings, and up to 50,000 more structures were damaged by tremors or the result-

ing fires. At least two million households in the region remained without electricity and water. Officials said it could take up to a month fully to restore basic public services.

Damage to road and rail networks will take much longer to repair: about one year to reconstruct the Hanshin expressway, the elevated highway which links the main cities of western Japan.

On Wednesday night 200,000 homeless people in Kobe huddled into schools as relief workers continued to

search for bodies in the rubble. In a Kobe suburb yesterday afternoon more than 80,000 people were forced to flee a leaking gas tank containing 20,000 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas.

Many survivors said their deep trauma following the quake has been compounded by fears of a violent aftershock which seismologists have said could occur during the next week. The Meteorological Agency said more than 720 small aftershocks were recorded up to yesterday afternoon, with 74 large enough to be felt.

In financial terms, it is undoubtedly the most costly quake in Japanese history. All commercial shipping operations have been suspended in Kobe, which ranks second to

Yokohama, near Tokyo, in total value to Japan of international trade.

There are no estimates as yet of the cost of rebuilding the devastated city. However, it has emerged that there is a widespread lack of insurance among Kobe residents. Earthquake insurance is prohibitively expensive but is a common precaution in Japan. In Kobe, however, fewer households are insured for quake damage than in any other part of Japan, according to an insurance industry spokesman. The reason, he said, was that the region had experienced no major earthquakes since 1946 and had a "low risk awareness".

William Rees-Mogg, page 18

Japan's city of mourning, fear and disbelief

FROM PAGE 1

I hitched a ride with a lorry taking food and drinking water to one of the worst hit areas, Sannomiya in the west of the city. After a tortuous journey through streets blocked by rubble, we reached the collection centre: a school converted to a shelter for the homeless.

A human chain passed boxes of food to the safety of a cellar. The 70-year-old man beside me laboured silently until the lorry was unloaded. Then, with an embarrassed smile, he thanked me, but several of his companions were too tired to speak.

Like sleepwalkers, they trudged mechanically down the steps to their makeshift beds. The violence and destruction of the earthquake has pushed them into a terrifying limbo. Accustomed to a life of push-button efficiency where all trains run on time, they have been confronted with a city of chaos and uncertainty.

In the city hall, nerve centre of the rescue operations, hundreds of men, women and children huddle under quilts and blankets. Across the road, in the city's fire department, officers monitor the fires on a bank of screens. The atmosphere is strangely quiet: the men have not slept since they were woken by the earthquake and some are on the verge of exhaustion.

Fire Lieutenant Hiroyuki Nakachi has left his wife and children in the wreckage of their flat. "Of course, I am afraid for them. But I must be here. It is my duty." He hopes the worst is over, but the casualty figures continue to rise.

Twelve thousand buildings have been damaged or destroyed and 250 acres of the city have been razed by fire. Nobody knows how many people remain trapped in the rubble of their homes and although rescue operations are continuing, they are hindered by the wreckage of collapsed buildings that block the narrow streets.

Today, the number of people dragged from the remains was in single figures and as the hours pass the chance of finding other survivors fades. The rescue teams seem curiously ill-equipped: without sniffer dogs or thermal imaging devices.

In the aftermath of the disaster, serious questions will be asked — about the readiness of the rescue services and the safety of roads and railways, which, supposedly, were earthquake-proof.

After the Los Angeles earthquake a year ago, officials of Japan's roads department claimed that construction safety standards in Japan were superior to those prevailing in America. However, faced with the widespread damage to road and rail structures — at least five collapsed bridge sections and the disintegration of Iami station — they will have to reconsider their claims.

The physical damage of the earthquake is severe, but it may also have more intangible repercussions. Although the Osaka Stock Exchange did not open today, several financial sectors are likely to be seriously affected. Building-related companies will benefit, though.

Painfully, the citizens of Kobe are coming to terms with what has happened. Each aftershock is a cruel reminder of their vulnerability and, without water, gas or electricity, their existence is bleak. But for the moment at least they are thankful to be alive.

Offers of help embarrass proud and shocked nation

BY GWEN ROBINSON

THEY stood patiently in long lines — business executives, fishermen, lawyers and young mothers — clutching their plastic buckets and waiting up to half a day for handouts of water, blankets, and cold rice balls.

As night fell in the port city of Kobe, more than 200,000 survivors left homeless by the earthquake settled down to sleep in crowded, makeshift refuges. Nearly 2.5 million people are without water and power. Almost everyone in and around Kobe is short of food and other vital supplies.

In normal times, many of the quake survivors who are now sleeping side by side would barely have crossed paths. But social distinctions have been swept away by the quake. Unshaven and dishevelled, the survivors are bound together by mutual desperation.

But there is another form of collective trauma emerging around the nation. "There are a number of big lessons from this quake, but the biggest has

AFTERMATH

been the grim reminder to every Japanese: it is not an abstract threat. It could happen anywhere, any time, it could take your family, your home, your life. We don't think seriously enough about such matters," one radio commentator said yesterday.

The Yomiuri Shimbun, yesterday urged the Japanese to reassess their "psychological preparedness". The haunting images of dead bodies trapped in the ruins of supposedly quake-proof structures have made their mark in Tokyo, where sales of "disaster prevention kits" have soared since Tuesday morning. The kits which include a torch, transistor radio, and first aid equipment, sell at department stores for the equivalent of £60 upwards. Lists of the dead, read out hourly on television, have added to the national sense of vulnerability.

For many Japanese, the offers of help which yesterday poured in from foreign governments only heightened the

sense of disaster. The Philippines, one of the largest recipients of Japanese aid, yesterday announced a campaign to raise two million pesos (£80,000) in aid for Japanese quake victims.

The Japanese Government initially politely declined all foreign offers of help, which came from the United Nations and 14 countries, including Britain.

"Japan appreciates foreign Government offers to help but does not plan to take them up for the time being," Kozo Igarashi, the Chief Cabinet Secretary said, early yesterday. Hours later, however, it was announced that Japan would accept Switzerland's offer to send a relief team with 12 search dogs.

Japanese officials suggested last night that the Government would also accept an offer from President Clinton to provide US troops to assist relief operations in Western Japan. Mr Clinton also offered to send a planning team. Mr Igarashi would only comment that perhaps "mutual assistance in disasters such as this is not a bad thing".



A Kobe woman sits in the rubble of her ruined home, in which her family was believed to have been buried

Exchange students found safe and well

BY ANJANA AHUJA AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

SIX students from Leeds University feared missing in the Japanese earthquake were found to be safe and well yesterday. The six were among 25 on an exchange visit. The remaining 19 were accounted for immediately after the quake struck Kobe at dawn on Tuesday.

Tina Harbige, 25, who was staying in Osaka, telephoned her mother in Weybridge, Surrey, to say she and two companions — Ian Foster, from St Leonards, East Sussex, and Dominic Roeske, a German — were safe. The other three were a Briton, two Portuguese women and a Finn.

Yvonne Harbige said her daughter had described horrific scenes: "Tina was woken by her bed being moved violently across the room. She said everything in the house was falling and there was a lot of damage. She said the screams of the other people in the house, who knew exactly what it was, were terrible."

"The main thing that upset her was the scene at a house nearby. It had been left as a

BRITISH SURVIVORS

pile of rubble. A young boy was standing on the top crying and crying. He was pointing downwards, saying he wanted his mother. She was obviously buried underneath but nobody was going to help him. Everybody was too busy helping themselves and the rescue operation hadn't got going."

Another 14 British students at the Kobe Institute of St Catherine's College, Oxford, were also reported to be safe and in good spirits.

Gregory Fremont-Barnes, an American who teaches history, said yesterday that staff and students had about a week's supply of food and he had resumed lecturing at the request of the Japanese students. The living quarters at the institute in the Nada district, where they are all staying, escaped damage.

"We still feel a tremor about every hour. We have electricity and gas but no running water. But there is a natural spring on the side of the mountain."

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For the love of listeners

The Anderson fiasco reflects BBC Radio's rejection of loyalty

ONE small step for the listeners, a giant step back for the revisionists of BBC radio? Let us hope so. Please may the expulsion of the reviled *Anderson Country* from its daily afternoon slot on Radio 4 mark the beginning of the end of BBC Radio management's vain and foolish attempt to blur the identities of its national networks.

The BBC's caving-in to the protests against *Anderson Country* for triviality was long overdue. Yet the decision was greeted in the press with sociological sneers. The outraged listeners responsible for returning Gerry to Derry have been dismissed as "Home Counties", "Middle England", "largely middle-class and ageing".



BRENDA MADDOX

This stereotype, alas, is what was responsible for the Anderson fiasco in the first place. BBC's top brass have been unhappy - about Radio 4's demographic profile: 46 per cent from southern England, 39 per cent from social classes A and B, and 72 per cent over the age of 45. They feared they were superseding a cultural elite.

But are they an elite? Another description of the Radio 4 audience is that it is 10 per cent of a substantial group who like speech programmes of intelligence and substance broadcast in well-spoken English. They may be 35 and over, but so are nearly 30 million people, according to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. And what is so elite about living with the mass of the population in the wedge of Britain closest to the capital city and the Continent?

The Celtic fringe consists, in BBC parlance, of "national regions". They have their own BBC national services to compete with the kind of polished, speech programmes that are Radio 4's speciality.

The recent manoeuvres at Broadcasting House reflect the BBC at a crisis. On the one hand, it has been trying to prove its high and distinctive quality to the Government. On the other, it strives to prevent the young from doing what they are going to do anyway: desert in large numbers to commercial radio. To these confused ends, the BBC has sacrificed the clear and distinct identities of Radios

1, 3 and 4, meanwhile creating a new network, Radio 5 Live, of distinctly split personality.

Curiously, the BBC has been ignoring what is acknowledged to be the essence of radio's pulling power: the loyalty of listeners to a particular station and its familiar voices. In the past three years, the BBC's response to listener protests has been puritanism personified. The louder the cries of pain, the greater the proof that the punishment was needed. A formidable mass protest from Radio 4 listeners was heard in 1991, when wise heads decided to move *Woman's Hour* from the afternoon slot it had occupied since just after the war to the morning.

But, protesters said, the traditional *Woman's Hour* audience looked forward to their own programme. In the quiet time after lunch, when the house was clean, the baby taking its nap, the other children not yet home. These walls were dismissed as nonsense, based on outmoded sociology.

Lo and behold, what has research by the new ITV Network Centre uncovered? A "magic hour" between two and three in the afternoon - the only time when the "largely female audience" wishes to relax "after a morning of housework and before the children come home from school". The result is ITV's own woman's hour: *Vanessa*.

Anderson was a pawn in the BBC's attempt to destroy the kind of established brand identity for its networks that advertisers of other products would spend millions to buy.

BBC radio consumers knew what each network stood for. Anderson himself has acknowledged the obvious - that his magazine chat show was inherently a Radio 2 programme, light entertainment for the easy-listening audience.

The earnest protesters who marched to "Save Radio 4 Long Wave" were acting not out of self-indulgence, but out of love - for a respected brand of radio. The BBC is unlikely ever to recapture the lost young fans of Radio 1. But it still might hope that when they grow up, Radio 4 will be there to be discovered: intelligent, articulate, the BBC at its best.



A university lecturer before she went to the Institute of Directors, Dr Ann Robinson is "astonished that former colleagues haven't asked me back to tell them what goes on in the real world"

Happy on the continental shelf

Dr Ann Robinson's dislike of red tape has made her an outspoken critic of the Brussels bureaucracy.

Julia Llewellyn Smith reports

I n the boardroom of the palatial Institute of Directors in Pall Mall, they are about to start a very important meeting about directors' pay. The cups of coffee have been finished, the cameras from ITN are rolling, but they cannot begin. Dr Ann Robinson, the high-profile head of the policy unit, is missing.

When they find her she is perched precariously on a mantelpiece, smiling for the *Times* photographer. "Oh, get down," begs the press officer. "They're screaming for you in there." Unperturbed, Dr Robinson continues to pose. The message is that "they" will just have to wait.

Dr Robinson, 57, is not the type to be bossed around. A passionate free-marketeer, she has spent the past six years vociferously campaigning for her businessmen members to be freed from the shackles of bureaucracy. From April, however, she will be representing a different interest group when she moves to the National Association of Pension Funds as director-general.

She will be arriving at NAPF at a crucial time, with pensions top of the political agenda throughout Europe. In Britain, the industry is still shaken by the Maxwell affair, the Pensions Bill is before

Parliament, and the population is ageing.

Meanwhile, Brussels threatens to harmonise pension provision throughout the European Community, a prospect which horrifies the doctory Dr Robinson, whose seven years on the Community's economic and social committee left her an outspoken Euro-sceptic.

"I didn't go native when I was there as most people do," she explains in her garret office, far above the Old Masters and glittering chandeliers. "It worried me how very convoluted the legislative processes were."

Once, she swears, she was "madly enthusiastic" about Europe, even standing (unsuccessfully) for the European Parliament in 1979. This, she claims, was thanks to her husband, a musicologist. "I'm very influenced by him. He's hauled me around France and Italy and Spain, and I have a very strong feeling for European culture."

Cultural considerations aside, Dr Robinson's latent loathing for regulations prevails. Small business is in her

blood. Her father ran hotels, and she was born in a pub in the West End of London. Her earliest memories are of the City of London, where the family lived in another pub. "I have a lot of natural sympathy with the problems of red tape. My father didn't get any of the tax relief that exists now."

After Oxford, she became a financial journalist with *Express Newspapers* until she married and moved to Durham. "I went to see Harold Evans later editor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, who was the editor of the *Northern Echo*. He was sitting in a little dark room and said: 'I suppose you could do the women's pages.' I thought 'No thank you, and get out pretty fast.'"

The newspaper world's loss was academia's gain. Dr Robinson became a lecturer in

politics at Durham, Bristol, Bath and Cardiff - using a spell in Toronto, following her husband, to pick up a PhD in politics and give birth to two sons.

She went to the IoD in late 1988. "I didn't really want to stay in academia. I would have ended up the dean or something bureaucratic like that." She shudders at the thought.

Dr Robinson's task was to fish out the best of her academic colleagues to tackle business problems. She would then get up early to appear on breakfast television, or stay up late for *Question Time*, in order to peddle these (usually ultra-right) philosophies. "Some of the ideas we had, which seemed outlandish, got to be received wisdom."

We said income tax wasn't relevant to the modern world, and the day when this is generally accepted is gradually coming.

"Business does not have a very good and sophisticated voice speaking for it. There was a need to get academics entwined with business studies, to have someone who can write a sophisticated book about the theory of business. We would come up with sophisticated and intellectual arguments and then translate them into something politicians could cope with."

"There's the same problem in the pensions field. People here are all actuaries, people with serious brains, and they need someone to interpret their more arcane arguments." It was a relief to come down from her ivory tower. "I became acutely aware that when you teach you don't know what it's really like. I'm a bit astonished that former colleagues haven't asked me back to tell them what goes on in the real world."

The real world is where Dr Robinson is very firmly rooted.

ed. She is a friendly, unpretentious woman, who greets me in her stocking feet as she recovers from the rain outside, chats cheerfully with her staff as she passes through the building and chuckles as she sees a bunch of them shut outside the boardroom. "I wonder what they're doing in there. They're probably deciding what to pay the headhunter who has to replace me."

One of the reasons she is looking forward to moving to NAPF is because it is in Victoria, near a public swimming pool. "When I joined the IoD I wanted to swim at the RAC Club near by. My secretary said, 'I'm sorry, you're a woman, it's not possible.' Bloody ridiculous. It was one of the things that really bugged me."

Not that Dr Robinson agrees with special treatment for women. "There are too many special interest groups: for women, for disabled people, all pressuring the Government to give them more. Things have to be down-sized, government can't keep expanding."

And what about her own new special interest in the pensions industry? Without missing a beat, Dr Robinson replies: "They can't say no to me, because I am representing a general interest. Every single person is going to get old. You have got to have the right economic and legislative framework for people to save for their pensions. It's proper that government makes sure it doesn't make life difficult for us."

I blame the Mona Lisa

Dalya Alberge talks to the director of the Louvre on his plans to keep crowds at bay

ROBIN MAYES



Pierre Rosenberg: the Louvre is overcrowded

For years, Pierre Rosenberg was perfectly happy. As curator of paintings at the Louvre, he spent his days buying pictures and staging exhibitions. But then the President and Prime Minister of France spilt it all. They asked him to head the Louvre.

After two months in the post, M. Rosenberg, 58, an eminent scholar of French and Italian art, would rather be in his old job, being close to the art as only a curator can. "To be head of paintings is a more pleasant job," he says. But when Mitterrand and M. Balladur are asking you, as he puts it, what can you do?

It is, arguably, the top job in the museum world. And yes, being picked should flatter any scholar's ego. After all, the Louvre is a former palace of the kings of France and remains filled with the world's largest and finest collection of art and antiquities: six million visitors come each year. The budget alone, which M. Rosenberg describes as "enormous", is enough to turn directors of cash-starved British galleries green with envy.

Being a curator was not entirely rosy. Last year he had to contend with criticism over plans to clean the *Mona Lisa* (said to be too fragile to be cleaned), and in 1992 he faced controversy when scaffolding crashed into and ripped a major Veronese painting.

But the problem with being head of the Louvre, M. Rosenberg says, is that the director has to adopt a hands-off role. Unlike British institutions,

where directors are directly involved with every major activity, the Louvre's seven department heads each have almost complete control of their areas.

He was in London earlier this week for today's opening of the Royal Academy's Poussin exhibition, which he co-curated before his appointment.

From now on, however, his mind will be on "greater things". For M. Rosenberg, who regularly works 12 to 14 hours every day, that means the major renovation of the museum, promoting scholarship and controlling a staff of 1,800. As much as half the building needs urgent attention. You could be forgiven for thinking it was finished with the 1993 opening of the Richelieu wing, which doubled the museum's capacity - the wing alone is the size of the British Museum - but elsewhere in the Louvre, there are sprawling galleries without electricity or adequate security.

The latter is a major concern. Last week, a crazed visitor slashed a minor 19th-century landscape. Last summer, someone removed a 17th-

century portrait from the wall and calmly walked out. For the next two years, only workmen will be allowed anywhere near the Egyptology department, the finest collection after Cairo. Six architects have been commissioned to transform different parts of the museum.

As a student at Yale, M. Rosenberg was singled out by André Malraux, France's first minister of culture, who offered him a post in the paintings department at the

Louvre. Asked how Malraux knew of an obscure graduate student, M. Rosenberg says "pure accident" and changes the subject.

He confesses to being pessimistic about the future of painting. "Painting has no real direction. We are in a strange moment where no one knows what will happen. No city stands out. Not New York, not Paris." "I sensed that he would have been even less happy to be asked to be director of the Pompidou. He is just as reticent about British museums and galleries. But, when gently pushed, he applauds our free admission and singles out the Victoria and Albert Museum as one of his favourites because it allows you to lose yourself, "letting you walk and walk, dreaming about what you saw". He talks of trying to emulate the "spect for the public" that British institutions have. "You don't have that feeling at the Louvre yet. The atmosphere is anonymous." The problem lies in the enormous crowds.

M. Rosenberg blames the *Mona Lisa*. "No English museum has a *Mona Lisa*. You can go to London without going to the National Gallery, but you cannot go to Paris without going to the Louvre. The *Mona Lisa* is really spoiling the museum. People are coming to see only her. She pollutes all around her." In future, noisy groups and tourguides will not be tolerated.

It comes as a surprise to hear a Frenchman and a scholar dismiss France as "such a minor country in the field of art history". M. Rosenberg insists that France lags behind both Britain and Italy. "The fact that London is a centre for the art market has cultivated the public more than in France. In France, we don't have a Warburg or a Courtauld, and the connoisseur tradition," he points out.

He believes the British, as our collectors, proved in the 18th and 19th centuries, will better understand Poussin - a difficult artist because of the biblical, mythological and symbolic references - than the French. He is scandalised that the French have not translated Anthony Blunt's studies of Poussin. "In spite of everything, he was the greatest Poussin scholar of the century, a great mind."

For M. Rosenberg, a Poussin show brings him full-circle. His first exhibition, in the early 1960s, was on the artist. The London show is slightly smaller than Paris. The drawings have been excluded. Asked why, he answers, "You must ask the Royal Academy". Diplomatic to the end.

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Embrocations for limbs and joints □ When that fever is not flu □ Why a day's housework may be a life-saver



THIRTY years ago mustard plasters were applied with both ceremony and enthusiasm; in the more remote corners of the country there was still talk of the curative powers of goose's fat.

The mustard plaster achieved its success by acting as a counter-irritant. The "comforting glow" it engendered in the skin took patients' minds off other symptoms. Although the concept of rubbing medicaments into the skin as a means of treating generalised disease had been accepted for centuries, it was only with the introduction in the past 15 years of transdermal patches which deliver a known dose of a wide variety of drugs through the skin which has made this route medically acceptable.

Now lifeboatmen and yachtsmen wear patches behind their ears which have been impregnated with hyoscine to keep seasickness at bay, women have HRT patches, American men wear testosterone patches on their scrotal skin to restore their potency and

those with angina sport one containing nitrates on their chests. The custom of rubbing embrocations for local problems into limbs and joints has never lapsed. No village football coach, or Mrs Camp, was without their own favourite remedy to treat soft tissue injuries such as strained muscles, torn tendons and arthritic joints. The patients felt better for the massage — and for the attention — and because many of the oils also reddened the skin, they gained the same comforting feeling as was imparted by mustard plasters.

Comfort is skin deep



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

There have recently been claims that the efficacy of embrocations has been revolutionised by the introduction into them of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents such as Feldene, Voltarol and Ibuprofen. However, some doctors have continued to regard the idea that rubbing the skin over a soft tissue injury could reduce inflammation as either being scientifically absurd, or, if it did work, as being solely dependent on the level of the drugs which might be absorbed.

Professor Rodney Grahame, consultant rheumatologist at

Guy's Hospital, writing in the *Journal of Clinical Practice*, has reviewed the drugs now available in embrocations and has analysed their effectiveness. His results show that the levels of the anti-inflammatory drugs are higher in the muscles and subcutaneous tissue adjacent to the skin than would have been expected if they were the result only of absorption into the circulation.

The supposition must be that the treatment of muscular and other subcutaneous conditions is both safe and effective when the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is applied locally. However, if the patient's troubles stem not from the muscles but from the underlying joints, local massage with the embrocation would be insufficient.

In order to obtain an effective blood level, and therefore level in the joint tissue, they will need to take tablets by mouth — with all the attendant risks of side effects. Rubbing the aching limb with an embrocation containing anti-inflammatory drugs will, therefore, help muscular aches and pains, but is not suitable for arthritic joints.

Winter woe



THE ROYAL Family are not the only people to enjoy winter holidays. While the athletes are returning tanned from their skiing, others have been to more exotic destinations. Where there is tropical sun, there is also all too often malaria as well.

This is the time of year when travellers to India, Africa and other malarial zones return to a flu-ravaged Britain. When the returning holidaymaker develops a headache, fever, joint pains and tummy upsets the question is whether they are sickening for flu, or have the first signs of an occasionally fatal dose of malaria. Another possibility too often overlooked is that they might have both.

The *General Practitioner* magazine warns doctors that there is only one way to find out, and that is with the appropriate blood tests, which should include the examination of thick and thin blood

films. Preferably the blood should be taken when the patient has a temperature. The magazine issues a further word of warning: a false negative result may occur if the patient is still taking anti-malarial drugs. To be absolutely safe, three negative results are needed. In future, Lariam (mefloquine) is to be recommended as the first choice for travellers, rather than Paludrine and Chloroquine, as it gives a better level of protection. Whichever schedule is recommended, patients need to be questioned about possible side effects before the drugs are prescribed.

Stroke risks



FOR the first time lack of exercise has been stressed as an independent risk factor in the annual report of the National Heart Foundation. The influence of rigorous daily exercise, a good brisk walk, is now accepted as one of the ways of protecting coronary arteries; but

what of the cerebral circulation and the risk of strokes?

The *American Journal of Epidemiology* has recently published statistics which have uncovered an apparent anomaly. Research has shown that both moderate and high levels of exercise help to prevent strokes in men. There was no increased advantage to the men taking high levels of exercise — preparing for a marathon run, for example. Moderate exercise was just as effective.

In women, neither moderate nor heavy exercise seemed to offer any protection against stroke. This finding remains unexplained, although allowances were made for other obvious risk factors such as smoking, medication, the patient's age and the presence of other diseases.

It is possible that the amount of exercise which a housewife undertakes when doing chores has been underestimated. If so, this might have influenced statistics. Women, however, if they do exercise briskly — but not, of course, so obsessively that their hormone levels are affected and their periods curtailed — can be assured that they are less likely to become osteoporotic.

When surgeons are bold

Dr James Le Fanu describes how a moment of daring in the operating theatre has increased life expectancy

The bravura of modern surgeons can be breathtaking. Mr Katsuhiko Yanaga, senior surgeon at Kyushu University Hospital in Fukuoka, Japan, was confronted by a difficult problem. Four years previously he had successfully removed an early tumour from the colon of a 45-year-old man. The prognosis was excellent, and the patient had long since stopped bothering to turn up at the hospital for his regular check-up.

Now, however, he had returned, worried by a swelling in the abdomen. When Mr Yanaga came to examine him he found his liver enormously enlarged. A scan confirmed "a huge, hard liver mass" occupying the whole of the right lobe and compressing a major vein — the inferior vena cava. Clearly this man was one of the unlucky ones whose early tumour had already spread to the liver before its excision.

Now this secondary growth — a medical terminology a metastasis — had destroyed most of the liver and nothing more could be done.

Not quite. Surgical removal of a single metastasis such as this from the liver can improve

survival, though to attempt such an operation in this case would almost inevitably have resulted in a catastrophic haemorrhage because of the tumour's proximity to a major vein.

Mr Yanaga's solution was astonishing. He tied off the blood supply from both arteries and veins and removed the whole liver, tumour and all from the abdomen, just as if he were taking the engine out of a car. The liver was then placed on ice on a table at the back of the operating theatre and the metastasis was carefully dissected out. The remnant, tumour free, was then replaced and reconnected to its blood supply.

A year later the patient was reported as being "alive and free of disease" and blood tests showed his liver was functioning normally.

Mr Yanaga's surgical skill is obviously very impressive, but, in fact, the techniques involved are virtually the same as those used in liver transplants, where the organ

is removed from a donor and relocated in the recipient. It was an inspired piece of lateral thinking on Mr Yanaga's part to realise the same procedure could be applied to a completely different problem — the removal of a metastasis from the liver.

It is almost more remarkable that surgeons should have thought of excising such metastases from the liver in the first place, as the presumption has always been that once a tumour has spread it is probably widely disseminated, and so any surgical intervention would be futile.

Nonetheless, surgeons like chopping things out and have been removing single metastases from the liver for a number of years without knowing whether their patients benefited as a result. That is, until Dr Martin Adson, at the Mayo Clinic in the United States, realised that the futuristic difference of opinion between two surgeons on the staff at the hospital would allow him to find out.

Essentially, one of the surgeons favoured cutting out such solitary metastases while another, having done a biopsy to be sure it was a secondary, then did nothing. All Dr Adson had to do was to compare the outcome in the patients of the two surgeons. He found that "at least a third" benefited from surgery, with better survival prospects at three years, and a very few were alive ten years later.

Subsequently Irving Taylor, Professor of Surgery at the Middlesex Hospital, observed: "It is now necessary to temper our initial scepticism regarding the resection of solitary liver metastases."

Professor Taylor has just completed a further analysis of the results of surgery which confirms that "intervention doubles the chance that a patient will still be alive after three years. He cautions, however, that since a proportion of the total number had secondary growths in the liver, those

with a single operable metastasis were a small minority.

More recently, surgeons have become even more ambitious. Despite the improved prospects after the removal of a metastasis, in a majority of cases secondary growths do eventually appear — so why not cut these out as well?

This procedure, known as a repeat hepatectomy, is technically much more difficult. But according to Mr A.W. Hemming, surgeon attached to the University of Toronto, writing in the December 1994 issue of the *British Journal of Surgery*: "It can still be performed with relatively low morbidity and mortality." The initial results were poor but have now improved and almost a quarter of patients are likely to be alive five years later.

The lessons from this saga are uncomfortable. Aggressive surgeons are rightly criticised for practising their skills too readily on patients who would best be left alone. But every so often heroic surgery can lead to unexpectedly good results, thus justifying Shakespeare's famous line: "Diseases desperate grown, by desperate appliances are relieved — or not at all."



In the balance: as surgeons become more ambitious, the chances of some patients improve

Dr Harvey Marcovitch on a potentially crippling disorder in babies

Mention screening to most women and they will think of detecting pre-cancer with a cervical smear. Men are more familiar with blood pressure checks. Few realise that there is a whole programme of health screening for children, starting at the first physical examination soon after birth which includes searching for eye cataracts, heart disease and dislocated hips.

Some screening tests have been spectacularly successful, notably that for thyroid disease which has largely prevented the physical and intellectual stunting that lack of a hormone in early infancy provokes. Others have been disappointing, particularly the test for congenital dislocated hips (CDH).

Every year about 1,000 babies are born in Britain with this condition. They have a poorly formed socket in the pelvis so that the head of the thigh bone is partly or completely displaced from it, but there is nothing to see externally to suggest that anything is wrong. An examiner, however, can make a simple manipulation of the thigh which brings the bone in and out of the hip with a "clunk".

In 1962, the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* declared: "The simple method, easily

Cure for hips which needs an early start



Testing for congenital hip has proved disappointing

learnt and quickly applied, adding less than a minute to the newborn examination, could be used to take the sting out of CDH as a crippling disorder."

If treatment starts in the early weeks, it is likely to be simple and successful. Two or three months in a splint may be all that is needed for a complete cure. Nature's nasty trick is that if CDH is undetected, parents are unlikely to recognise that there is a problem until the child is up and walking — with a limp. By that time, splinting will not work and a series of major operations may follow with no guarantee of perfection and a distinct possibility of an arthritic hip as a young adult.

But after 30 years of screening, survey after survey has shown that as many as four out of 10 newborns go undiagnosed and the number operated on because of late discovery has scarcely fallen. This can only mean that many of the babies put in splints at birth probably did not have a true dislocation in the first place. So not only are we missing cases, but some babies are being treated unnecessarily.

What has gone wrong? Partly it may be due to the inexperience of examiners, usually a senior house officer. But even the orthopaedic surgeon, T.G. Barlow, one of the two people after whom the screening test is named, described missing 19 per cent

of his cases. The Swedish surgeon, S. von Rosen, whose splint most sufferers wear, also failed to detect all. A nationwide campaign in Finland threw in resources the like of which no NHS Trust could offer but still failed to find more than one in 10.

The type of patient who catches screeners out has been detailed in the *Israeli Journal of Medical Science*: a 16-month-old girl with knock-knees had a hip X-ray by mistake. It showed CDH but on examining her there was nothing abnormal to see or feel. A baby was carefully examined every two months and on the ninth visit the diagnosis became possible. It seems that dislocation may not be truly congenital in every case even if the poorly formed socket is.

There is a second chance. GPs or health visitors retest for CDH at around six weeks and they are asked to test again at six to nine months. However, the newborn test is unsuitable at this age. What they have to look for, among other things, is an infant unable fully to move his thigh to the side because of tightness of the muscles on its inner side. Up to now this method has not been promoted in paediatric textbooks and many GPs and health visitors are ignorant of it. It is still not clear how many cases it would pick up.

CDH can be detected by using ultrasound and in the next century this may be the preferred method of screening, especially if it can distinguish those babies with abnormalities that need treating from those who do not. If it proves an effective tool, health service managers face a headache. The technique is, to use the jargon, conducted in real-time and is operator-dependent. Testing every baby born in a hospital will need many more skilled ultrasonographers. Screening may be ruled out if the cost proves too high.

But negligence suits involving CDH are increasing in number and although usually unsuccessful, hospital trust legal departments kneecap once a technique becomes available the pressure to use it may become irresistible.

Dr Marcovitch is a consultant paediatrician at Horton General Hospital, Banbury.

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Janet Daley



Gentlemen's clubs lack more than women members: they are short of a sense of irony too

I would not want to be a member of any club which could not see when I was sending it up. Events this week bring back memories of the comic farrago which enveloped this column when the Garrick last voted on female membership. Things have come on a bit since the dark days of 1992. A couple of eminent men have now denounced their clubs for refusing to admit women, however distinguished they may be.

The resignation of David Butler from the Oxford and Cambridge Club, on the grounds not only that it refused full membership to women but that it was clearly ignoring the wishes of its members in doing so, was followed by Lord Lester, QC, who renounced the Garrick for failing to resist its members' demand that women be excluded.

Mr Butler seems to me, at least on democratic grounds, to have a stronger case. Any private club has a right to choose its own admission rules and stand by them, however absurd and anachronistic they may be. But a club — as a generation of Oxford philosophers might have said — cannot be said to have any existence apart from its membership. Therefore, the views of a club cannot properly be diametrically opposed to those of its members.

Hence, Mr Butler must be right not just morally but logically.

But it is the Garrick which remains the more interesting case, precisely because a majority of its membership — not just a small clique of diehards — really is opposed to admitting women. Which brings me back to the hilarity of summer 1992. In the week before the great vote, I wrote a piece which — in the strongest terms the lawyers would permit — depicted the Garrick as a smug nest of mild corruption. The club epitomised to me the more repugnant aspects of British establishment life: self-satisfied snobbery and the kind of mindless "loyalty" which values acquaintance higher than talent.

If well-placed men formed associations in which the business of public life was privately transacted, I asked, why should well-placed women be cut out? Forget the louche undertones of a female presence. It wasn't a leg-over that women wanted but a leg-up — just like all those male arrivistes who queue for years to join. As I hope you will have noticed, this is a joke. Perhaps it is the ironic headline appended by a mischievous sub-editor ("I want to join the network of the clubbable") that did it, but some of the old farts actually concluded that this article meant that I wished to be a member.

What followed was, by turns, farcical and nasty. A member of the Garrick, one Mr Derek Nimmo — a theatrical performer who once played a doty vicar in a television comedy series — contacted my literary agent to ask for my curriculum vitae. He gave no reason for this request except to say that it was in connection with the Garrick Club vote.

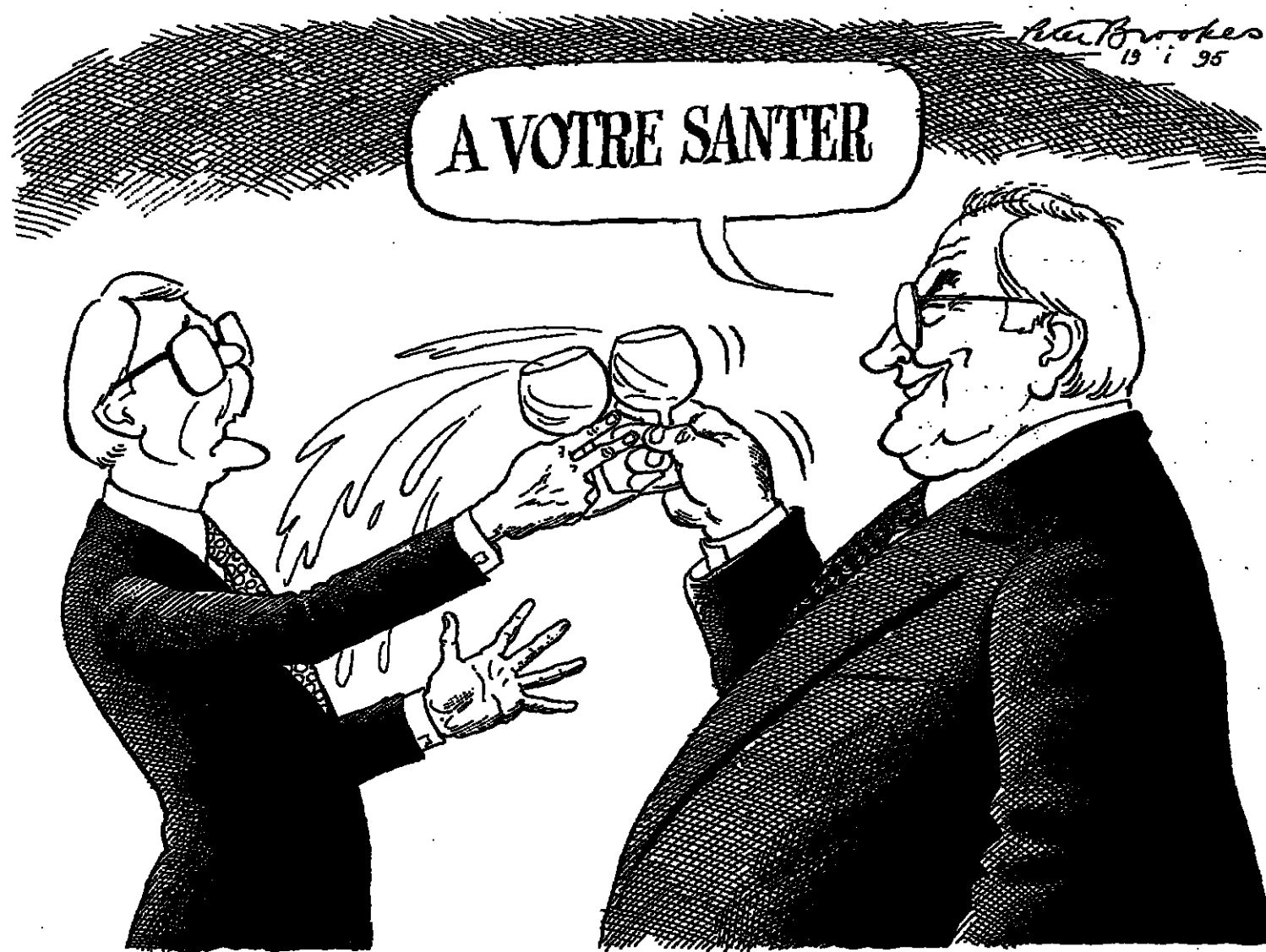
I instructed that a copy of my C.V. should be sent to him with my good wishes. Presumably it offered nothing damaging enough — or perhaps it did not present the hoped-for dearth of qualification — for Mr Nimmo to use in the misogynist diatribe which was his contribution to the club's debate. He showered contempt instead on the hapless female colleagues with whom he had worked over the years, apparently having found them all equally detestable.

But I was clearly still in his sights. A few weeks later, I wrote about a very different subject. The Nazi apologist David Irving had been employed by *The Sunday Times* to translate

The last thing I want to do is join them

Goebbels' diaries. I commented that as a Jew who had lost relatives in the Holocaust, I could understand the outrage that followed this, but felt nonetheless that it was dangerous to banish people purely on the grounds of their opinions. Of course, I said, we all have the right not to associate with people whose views are repugnant to us. Mr Nimmo promptly wrote a letter (again — rather strangely — to my agent rather than to me at *The Times*) saying how delighted he would have been to have used those very words against me in the Garrick debate. Mr Nimmo obviously takes his club life very seriously. The use of that particular subject as fodder for a cheap jibe seems to me — how can I put this? — distinctly odd.

Another contributor to that afternoon of debate at the Royal Theatre — a very high-powered member of the House of Lords — delivered himself of the quite remarkably misinformed statement that the only woman who wanted to join the Garrick was "an American journalist" who said that she wanted to "use the club for networking". And of course, he announced self-righteously, no one ever used the Club for that purpose, and if she (I) attempted to do so, the members would gather together in spontaneous outrage and fling her (me) from an upstairs window. Is this the quintessential male club fantasy: caustic revenge on the mother who abandoned you at prep school? (Note to Garrick members: this is Another Joke.)



Now for the aftershocks

Japan's vast rebuilding bill may spell the end of the West's spending binge

For some years seismologists have been expecting a great Japanese earthquake, and economists have been fearing it. An earthquake in the Tokyo area equal to or greater than that of 1923 would have devastated Japan, disrupted the Japanese economy, and dislocated an essential part of the world economy. Such an earthquake could still occur, but the earthquake that has actually happened was not of such magnitude. Nevertheless, the Kobe earthquake could trigger a change in the whole world economy.

Economists are liable to sound heartless when they discuss tragic events in terms of their impact on economic trends. Yet an economic analysis has to be made. The estimate of the cost of the Kobe earthquake is at present very imprecise, being put at between \$20 billion and \$200 billion. The fires are not yet out. Experience of early estimates of earthquake damage, including the recent earthquakes in Los Angeles and Florida, has been that they are almost always too low; the Tokyo earthquake of 1923 wiped out wealth equivalent to a third of Japan's gross domestic product at that time. If this had been as large — and fortunately it was not — the comparable damage would be not \$200 billion, but \$1,650 billion. Earthquakes are very expensive as well as lethal catastrophes.

In world terms, \$200 billion is quite a large sum, but not a very large sum. The Japanese gross domestic product is about \$4 trillion, so \$200 billion is about 5 per cent of Japan's annual income. It would be about 20 per cent of the annual income of the United Kingdom. Most of the cost of repairing the damage will fall upon the Japanese Government. In 1923, the Tokyo earthquake bankrupted the Japanese insurance companies, and since then they have been largely protected from earthquake risk — the Government steps in after the insurance companies have paid about the first \$2 billion of costs. A large part of the damage has been to public utilities, repair of which falls on the Japanese Government in any case. Many homes were uninsured.

Both the Japanese Government and the insurance companies will have reinsured some of these risks, but Japanese earthquake reinsurance has never been popular with foreign underwriters, so the overseas contri-

bution is likely to be quite small. The first financial impact will therefore form an addition to Japan's budget deficit.

This will be a significant injection of extra spending power into the Japanese economy, and it will have a multiplier effect. There will be more jobs in the construction industry; these workers will have more money to spend; there will be more pressures on the employment market. In the Japanese economy, the expansion of the 1980s has been followed by a long recession and a slow recovery. Post-earthquake spending will be big enough to have a positive effect on Japanese recovery in the later 1990s.

Not only structures immediately damaged — extensive though these are — will need to be rebuilt. The whole of Japan is an earthquake zone. The Kobe earthquake has proved that old Japanese houses cannot survive a major shock, that quite modern buildings are also vulnerable, and that there is a terrible fire risk, but that most buildings of a genuinely modern standard can survive. What has been true of Kobe would be equally true of Tokyo. A similar pattern appeared in the recent quakes in the United States.

As recently as last week, the Japanese property market was the world's worst example of boom and bust. Property prices had collapsed, leaving black holes in the balance sheets of Japanese banks and insurance companies. In commercial property, Japan seemed to be over-built by perhaps five to 10 years. One earthquake has changed all that. Less than 10 per cent of Japanese property, taking residential and commercial buildings together, has been constructed to an adequate earthquake standard. From being apparently over-built, Japan is now demonstrably under-built, and the long-term construction requirement can be compared to that at the end of a major war.

This earthquake will therefore produce a short-term stimulus to the Japanese economy. But beyond that

it will alter the whole shape and character of investment demand. The economy now has a new investment task, perhaps comparable to the whole of the fixed investment of modern Japan — a task measurable in hundreds of trillions of yen. The Japanese will be looking at every building in their country and asking themselves whether it could survive force eight on the Richter scale.

The immediate effect on the yen will be complex, and may be paradoxical. Some funds will have to be transmitted by foreign reinsurers to meet claims. Some Japanese funds which would have been invested overseas will now be invested at home. Japanese interest rates will tend to rise. The short-term currency effect may therefore be to strengthen demand for the yen. But the longer-term effect must be the other way. Both the immediate Keynesian effect of the earthquake and the longer-term investment demand will tend to lower the value of the yen. The Japanese domestic economy will expand more than it would have done, and the expansion will last longer. There will be some inflationary pressure, as against the deflation with which Japan has been threatened. Japan will import more, and as some investment will be diverted from industry to property, it will build up smaller trade surpluses. All of these factors will tend to bring the yen back closer to its purchasing power parity with the rest of the world.

Much of the after-effect of this earthquake will be positive in world economic terms. The Japanese economy will grow faster than it otherwise would have done. The trade and currency imbalances between Japan and the rest of the world will be reduced. The immediate extra injection of purchasing power into the Japanese economy, had it been an act of policy instead of an act of God, might have been considered no more than a rather bold Keynesian experiment, comparable to the injection of demand into the American economy by President Kennedy in the early 1960s. It is even possible that the Japanese budget deficit will in the end rise very little, because of the increase in revenue from the economic expansion that is stimulated.

Yet beyond this there is a much more troubling impact. The Japanese are the world's great savers. Of the four big regional groups, North America, Europe, the China-Pacific economy and Japan, the Japanese are the only people who save more than their own requirements. The other three economic groups have net investing or financing needs, particularly if one includes Eastern Europe in the European group, Mexico in North America, and Chinese investment needs in the Pacific. Some of these countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, are grossly under-saving. Japan has funded other people's under-saving, has helped to balance the finances of the United States, has invested in British industry and has started a massive investment programme in China. By meeting these savings deficiencies, Japan has also kept world interest rates at a level which has permitted the world recovery of the mid-1990s.

Kobe will have reminded the Japanese, in the most powerful way, that their own infrastructure is in competition for their own funds, along with foreign industrial investment and the United States deficit. The earthquake will reduce Japanese savings and increase the demands made on them. Japanese savings were already badly over stretched in terms of the world demand; that will become much worse.

The rest of the world has three choices. We can save more and finance our investment needs for ourselves. We can raise interest rates until they choke off investment demand. Or we can close the savings gap by inflation, writing off old debts as we create new ones. The first course is obviously the most desirable, and every British budget from now on should be aimed primarily at increasing savings. Some combination of higher interest rates and inflation is only too likely to happen. When we saw Kobe burning on television, we were seeing the world's bank burn down. When we turn a next year for a loan, the money may not be there, or it may be much more expensive.

William Rees-Mogg

Stand up for free speech

Antony Whitaker
on a threat to our legal sovereignty

The British right of free speech is threatened worldwide. Unless those interested in airing their views — from politicians to Hyde Park Corner hopefuls — do something before the end of the month, our most prized democratic right will be drastically curtailed. Britons could soon be sued in our courts under foreign law which are grossly and unacceptably restrictive.

In a move which will dispose of yet another slice of our sovereignty, the Lord Chancellor proposes abolition of legal rules controlling the enforcement of foreign laws in British courts, and its replacement by a "system" of "compatibility tests". Where an individual's reputation is at stake, this means that the foreign publication must be a libel under both our law and the relevant foreign law. A British court will not enforce a right unknown to its law, such as a sweeping foreign right of privacy. The test thus reflects the law's policy of discriminating against legal systems less liberal than our own.

Though few probably realise it, it protects, among others, those whose public utterances in Britain are reported overseas and who might otherwise be faced with foreigners seeking to enforce foreign libel laws in British courts.

Suppose that before the Romanian revolution *The Times* had exposed one of Ceausescu's senior ministers as corrupt, and had ample evidence to prove it. Under the present rules, a British court would throw out any claim for libel if a Romanian libel law allowed neither the truth nor "privilege" (the right of honest, though mistaken, criticism of public officials) as a defence. Such a claim would still be thrown out under the new rules, but in the case of a slightly less repressive regime, the British judiciary might be acutely embarrassed.

Under the proposed rules, if a country's law were marginally compatible with our law, a judge would be obliged to decide whether it should be upheld. Beyond preserving British judges' right to reject the application of a foreign law if it would "conflict with public policy" — wherever our law eventually decides the goal-posts of that concept lie — no acknowledgement is made of the vital need to deny democratic or repressive legal systems the hospitality of our courts, let alone to ensure that the laws we pass and enforce conform to the criteria of certainty, freedom and proportionality laid down by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Suppose now that *The Times* had written about a corrupt minister in post-Ceausescu Romania, and that libel law there now allows the defence of truth, provided it is for the public benefit, and privilege, but only in respect of government organisations rather than individuals. Would a British court entertain now the minister's claim of libel? The defamation unquestionably occurred in Romania through the distribution of *The Times* there. However, instead of being able to reject the claim on the old basis that Romanian law is less democratic than ours (albeit now only marginally), a British judge would face the dilemma of having to find a convincing public policy basis for rejecting or indeed allowing enforcement of this foreign law.

Would he measure it against the yardstick of the European Convention? Would he examine the Romanian constitution, the extent of Romanian ministerial power, the nature of judicial discretion as applied by the no sure criteria. Until our courts start evaluating these issues in practice, no public speaker, newspaper or broadcaster can even begin to guess at what laws will apply or what principles will emerge. It is like telling a motorist not to park on invisible double yellow lines.

Contrary to what Lord Mackay suggested in the House of Lords when he introduced his proposals during a cosy and clubbable sitting in December (it had just been discussing the loss at sea of 30,000 rubber ducks), the abolition of the compatibility test is highly controversial. The English and the Scottish law commissions both specifically recommended the retention of the test where free speech issues are concerned, but unfortunately there is virtually no restriction on Lord Mackay's ability to legislate.

Our law of libel may not be perfect, but it is the best available. It allows us to speak the truth, no matter who may be embarrassed; to denounce government organisations with impunity; to criticise politicians, even mistakenly, as long as we genuinely believe what we say; and to comment honestly on their performances, no matter what our prejudices. These freedoms are central to a democratic society, and the need to preserve them is paramount. This branch of the law has a long and distinguished record, and sets the standard by which other legal systems should be judged. For Lord Mackay to haul down the Union Jack here on the grounds that the law is too "nationalistic" is simply not acceptable.

Ample reward

THE BENEDICTINE monks of Ampleforth in Yorkshire, one of the country's leading Catholic public schools, are following in the harmonic steps of their commercially minded Spanish brethren. They are recording a compact disc of Gregorian chant in time for the Easter market.

Ampleforth has taken due note of the chart-topping success of the monks of Silos, who sold more than £4.5 million worth of records in their native Spain before hitting the British market. But the establishment where Andrew Parker Bowles, Lord Nolan and Rupert Everett were educated denies jumping on any monastic bandwagon for the sake of a few bob in lean times. "Absolutely not," says a spokesman. "The monks are simply responding to the new interest in this type of music."

Reaction from old boys was mixed yesterday. "They're not exactly the sort of singers whose records we would have bought at school," said one. "I can't see them on *Top of the Pops*."

The schoolboys don't always show much respect for the monks anyway. In the past they have been

accustomed to filling the monks' cowl with flour so that when they pull up their hoods the habits get a good dusting. Others confess that they used to go to services in the abbey only for a quiet fag at the back.

Yesterday, however, business was pressing: the monks were on tour, singing at York Minster for the first time since the Reformation as part of Christian Unity week. The boys were not invited to attend the candle-lit service. "No, they've



got work to do. They're beaver away at prep," explained Ampleforth.

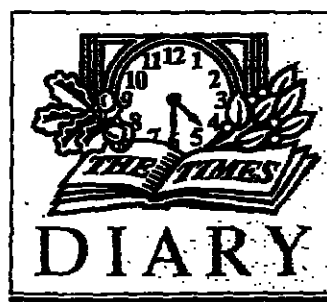
● Bob Geldof — even more pale and thin than usual — looked murderous as he struggled through the throng at the London premiere of *Interview with the Vampire* on Tuesday night. "I don't know about playing vampires, but I could certainly do with some blood," he murmured menacingly in my ear.

Pride of place

THE MATTER of Spanish trawlermen fishing in traditional British waters is not the lone concern of David Harris, the Conservative MP for St Ives, who was threatening to defy the whip over the Commons vote on the matter last night. He also has half a mind on the gifts being showered upon him by constituents.

After meetings with fishermen, I sometimes have a bag of plaice pressed into my hand — the trawlermen have not quite got to the stage of throwing fish at me," he writes in this week's *House* magazine.

Before *The Guardian* finds out, do I have to declare such presents in the Register of Members' Interests?



On reflection, Harris thinks not. "It would be churlish to say no to a bit of fish. But when a prominent businessman offers a case of wine, I politely decline."

Blue humour

PETER COOK was in everyone's thoughts at a fundraising reception for Cambridge University's "Foundations for the Future" appeal on Tuesday night at Christie's. Sir David Williams, the university's vice-chancellor, is planning a commemoration ceremony for the comic genius. "He belonged to a brilliant generation of undergraduates at Cambridge. Some of them became Pythons and Goodies, some went to *Private Eye* and some of them joined the Cabinet. It would be marvellous to have a commemoration for him in Cam-

bridge later in the year. I will put it at the top of my list."

John Cleese, another Cambridge graduate, is all for the idea. "Excellent," he boomed from Los Angeles, where he was sipping orange juice in the sun. "I think that would be an excellent idea."

Fry up?

AFTER last year's fall-out among the judges, the ten-strong Booker Prize management committee is aware of the delicacy of its task when it meets today to select this year's judges and chairman. Martyn Goff, the Booker administrator, is being cautious: "We were speculating at lunch yesterday about who might be available, but I can only say that Stephen Fry's name has come up a few times."

Beware!

HAD the Prince of Wales brushed up on his Gaelic, he might not have had to suspend his valet, Ken Stronach, who revealed what the Prince keeps on his bedside table to the *News of the World*.

My linguistic friend at Edinburgh University points out that the valet's mere name should have put the Prince on his guard before he



was employed, all of 15 years ago. Kenneth means "handsome", but this is not the cause for concern. Stronach means "nosy".

● Jonathan Dimbleby thinks very much more of the sheep on his new organic farm than of the politicians he interviews. "They're great antidotes to politicians," he says. "I like their idiosyncrasy and they are prolific breeders. Sounds to me like more of the same."

P.H.S.



A RAIL DEAL

Privatisation now has a chance to work

The announcement by the Rail Regulator, John Swift, that Railtrack must reduce its charges for passenger companies marks a momentous and welcome change in the sorry muddle over rail privatisation. Mr Swift has effectively blessed a deal already done between the Treasury and Bob Horton, the chairman of Railtrack, which reduces the impossible financial burden that the Government had placed on the new track authority. The original terms not only made privatisation extremely problematic but threatened the entire project to take British Rail out of the public sector. The new deal puts the plan truly back on track.

On the eve of yesterday's Commons debate on the through-ticketing issue, the Government recognised the relationship between tight Treasury rules and the ruin of its hopes ahead. By demanding an 8 per cent return on Railtrack's notional assets of £6.5 billion, the Treasury was insisting that the railways be treated as any other public sector enterprise — even though, because of the need for permanent subsidy, they are a manifest special case. If, in turn, Railtrack set its access charges so high that even successful lines could no longer operate profitably without permanent government subsidies, investors would have little temptation to take up the 25 franchises. Railtrack knew the figures were wrong. So did Downing Street. So, increasingly, did the public, outraged by stories that such a regime would make it impossible even for charter trains to run on the main network.

The value of Railtrack has now been substantially written down and Mr Horton has been ordered to charge 8 per cent less in the coming year and a further 2 per cent less in real terms in each of the five following years. The effect on Railtrack's profitability — and therefore on its market value — is severe. It will have to be met by the strongest insistence on efficiency gains. Thousands of jobs will have to be shed. New working practices will have to be introduced, what-

ever the opposition, and a whole new culture of accountability.

The prize of success, however, is great. What Railtrack needs, above all, is a massive injection of funds — around £1 billion a year for the next 10 years — which would never have come from the Treasury and now has a chance to come from private investors. The principle of long-term subsidies to franchisees is an important breakthrough. Two important further questions remain. What is to happen to the cash shortfall of £400 million that is threatening immediate cuts in services? And can train operating companies now get going with a regime that allows them to satisfy public aspirations? The answer to both depends on how flexible the Treasury is now prepared to be not only on Railtrack payments but on the amount British Rail will be required to pay as a rate of return on its rolling stock.

Few would now, in hindsight, devise a privatisation plan as complex as what is proposed. But with these changes, it may work. The enemy now is delay. Already this has taken a toll on industries such as the York carriage works of ABB which will have to close because there are no orders in sight. There will probably also have to be a reduction in the number of proposed franchisees, with 25 companies coming down to around five or six.

Two issues, in the end, will determine whether this privatisation succeeds. First, political will — by the Government as well as on the part of the Labour Party, whose vacillating attitude to the changes leaves the railway industry, as well as potential investors, confused; secondly, whether the new framework will allow managers to run a better service. If their time has to be spent manipulating the complex relations between new entities, they will have no time to improve the system. If they can exploit new freedoms and assets, then, as John Major hopes, railways may no longer be a musical joke.

LAW FROM ABROAD

A foreign threat to free speech in this country

Parliamentary measures enacting law reform are usually too technical to attract attention beyond the legal profession. Yet the Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill should concern all who value the basic freedoms at the heart of our political culture. As Antony Whitaker writes on the opposite page, the bill — which received its second reading in the Lords last month — is a significant threat to freedom of speech and the freedom of the press in this country. Its more objectionable clauses should be strongly resisted.

The Bill will alter profoundly the way in which British courts deal with foreign laws of tort. Under the present system, British courts enforce foreign legal rights only if they are compatible with British law; a plaintiff will succeed only if the conduct complained of would have amounted to a tort, or civil wrongdoing, under the laws of this country as well as in his own. Under the proposed system, there will be an assumption that the applicable law is the law of the country wherever the particular wrong occurred.

There are general and particular reasons to oppose this change. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, claims that it has "attracted the support of the legal profession". There is also, however, much unease among senior lawyers about the Bill. The common law governing choice of law in tort has been very carefully developed, most recently in the Privy Council's *Red Sea Insurance* judgment last year. Lord Denning has aptly described the choice of law as "one of the most vexed questions in the conflict of laws". It has been left to judges

to unravel its complexities and to decide how much weight to give to foreign law. As Lord Wilberforce said last month, this discretionary element should not be "frozen into the lapidary phrases of the parliamentary draftsman".

The reform will have particularly grave implications for the law of libel. A foreign government will, in principle, be able to use its own extreme libel laws as a weapon against the British media. They might even be able to apply for injunctions using their own definitions of acceptable freedom of speech. Against this, the British courts will be entitled to rule that the foreign law in question undermines British "public policy". But this provision is far too vague and untested to be an acceptable guarantee against abuse of the new system. Equally, British courts may find themselves boxed by the more nebulous concepts in other countries' law of tort, such as "infringement of self-esteem".

As Lord Lester remarked last month, this would be an odd moment in the history of global communications for British freedom of expression "to be chilled or restricted by applying in English courts the laws of foreign countries which are far more repressive of freedom of expression". The Lord Chancellor is mistaken if he thinks this is an uncontroversial measure to be hurried through Parliament on the nod. Indeed, it is a matter that deserves prolonged public debate. Harmonisation with the practice of other countries should be only one consideration in law reform. There are pluses as well as minuses in the British legal approach to free speech: we squander the pluses at our peril.

THE MULTIMEDIA PONTIFF

The message may be old, but the messenger can always be new

Pope John Paul flew from the humidity of Papua New Guinea to the unseasonal rains of Sydney yesterday. In the course of an exhausting day he sat through one abandoned take-off and made four speeches. As throughout his latest tour, he needed a stick to walk with. Not surprisingly the 74-year-old pontiff looked tired and frail, and had to be helped onto the platform to meet religious leaders. Characteristically he joked about his workload and his determination to carry on his work without abating, in spite of the infirmities and weariness of age.

A huge crowd is expected for him today at the beatification mass of Mary McKillop, Australia's first saint. Even that will be nothing like the four million the Pope addressed in Manila on Monday. Bigger than the tribal hordes of the Dark Ages or crowds herded to honour 20th-century dictators, this must have been the biggest audience ever assembled in one place. Next he is off to the heat and crowds of Sri Lanka.

But even that Manila congregation, addressed in person by St Peter's old method of standing up and speaking out, is tiny compared to the crowds the Pope is reaching on the strange new pilgrimage of internet. His words today will be broadcast immediately around the world on cyberspace by the Vatican Information Service. Millions of people in more than a hundred countries are already plugged into this Vatican hotline of electronic mail, fax and other telematic devices. This new pilgrimage

along the information super-aisle is faster and less arduous (at least for the computer-literate) than the dusty old road to Rome or the Pope's continual travels.

The Pope can, and often has, been criticised for his conservatism. He is a Pole who grew up under communist tyranny. And so, like everyone else, he is a child of his race and time and background. To many, even to members of his Church, his rigid opposition to family planning seems foolish, or even wicked, especially in such desperately overcrowded and impoverished places as the Philippines. But reason has often little to do with faith. The Pope may seem out of touch with the new world in some of his attitudes. But in his approach to the revolution in communications he is the very model of a modern mass-communicator. A globe-trotter now in his 63rd overseas pilgrimage, he has just announced his next schedule of tours, to America, Africa, Lebanon, Belgium and Slovenia. This Christmas his book of interviews, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, broke sales records in Italy, Ireland and in countries as unexpected as China. A compact disc of the Pope reciting the rosary in five languages including Latin climbed the charts on both sides of the Atlantic.

It is not necessary to agree with this first multi-media Pope to admire his courage, his charisma and his youthful openness to new technological miracles. Truth and persuasion travel faster by fax than by foot.

Pius XII, the Jews and the Nazis

From the Reverend J. M. Charles-Roux

Sir, Several years before the war, when the governments and public of Great Britain and France were still unaware of them, the Vatican knew of the horrifying misdeeds of the Nazis ("The Pope, the Jews and the Nazis", *Vision*, January 14). They were condemned by the pen of both Pius XI and Pius XII in *Mit Brennender Sorge* ("With Fervent Concern") and, again publicly in German, in a discourse delivered in Budapest.

On each occasion, these condemnations provoked an increase in persecutions, and no reaction whatever from Paris and London, except the acclaim of the press. All the efforts of the Pope — and what daring ones they were — aimed at involving the French and British governments in the support of German resistance to the Nazis were declined or left without a reply. Therefore the Pope decided that he would henceforth concentrate on saving as many people as he could from torture and death.

After the war, Sir D'Arcy Osborne, the British Minister to the Holy See between 1936 and 1947, movingly reported an audience during which Pius XII handed him a balance sheet of the horrors committed by the belligerents. Because of the Soviets, to whom we were shamefully allied, it was very far from being favourable to our side. For instance, while Hitler diabolically exterminated six million Jews, Stalin acted similarly towards millions of Christian Ukrainians.

According to Israeli archives, Pius XII, with the slender means at his disposal, succeeded in saving 800,000 Jews. That is why a forest of as many trees, bearing his name, now stands in the Holy Land.

I am, Sir, your devoted servant in Christ,
JEAN CHARLES-ROUX,
St Etheldreda's, 14 Ely Place, EC1,
January 16.

From Miss Felicity O'Brien

Sir, Ruth Gledhill, in her article of January 14, says that Pius XII "failed to publish the encyclical against racism and anti-Semitism that had been worked on under his predecessor".

It is, nevertheless, a fact that, in his first encyclical, *Summi Pontificatus* (October 1939), Pius XII described as a "pernicious error" the widespread "forgetfulness of the law of human solidarity and charity, which is dictated and imposed by our common origin and by the equality of rational nature in all men, no matter to what people they belong". Love of one's country, he said, "should not make us close our eyes to the all-embracing nature of the interests of Christian charity which calls for consideration of others and of their interests in the pacifying light of love".

In Germany the Gestapo received orders to confiscate copies of this encyclical, and the presses on which it had been printed: Hitler considered Pius XII as a personal enemy, and it is reliably documented that the latter considered Hitler to be in some way possessed by the Devil.

The Pope's views of Nazism can be seen in his words to Cardinal Gerlier of Lyons, in January 1941, that he believed that if Germany won the war it would be the greatest blow to strike the Church for many centuries; and, to the then Monsignor Montini, on October 5, 1941, the Pope said that an Axis victory would mean an end to Christianity in Europe.

In several major documents and statements during the war, the Pope referred to those who were suffering because of their "nationality or race", and to his assistance being given to all, regardless of "nationality or race". This expression is a considerably stronger reference to Jews (and, of course, to others who were victims for the same reason) than the term quoted by Ms Gledhill, "unfortunate people".

Yours faithfully,
FELICITY O'BRIEN,
281a Crescent Drive,
Pens Wood, Kent.

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, The controversy concerning the role of Pope Pius XII vis-à-vis the Jews and the Holocaust during World War 2 will continue until all the Vatican archives of the period are open to public scrutiny.

It is incomprehensible that the Pope should have remained silent when the Nazis were rounding up Jews all over Europe (even under the very windows of the Vatican) and sending them to the extermination camps in the East. On the other hand, many Jews were saved by the Catholic Church, which provided shelter in "safe houses", particularly in Hungary.

The present Pope has gone out of his way, as did his predecessor, to condemn anti-Semitism as a sin, and the Vatican is represented on the International Council of Christians and Jews. The new Germany provides some funds for ICCJ, but clearly much more could be done if greater financial support were provided.

Yours faithfully,
S. STERNBERG
(Chairman of the Executive),
International Council of
Christians and Jews,
Star House,
104-108 Grafton Road, NWS.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-822 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Limits on nurses' role in the theatre

From Mr John Spiers

Sir, The issue raised by the conduct of a nurse and a consultant during an appendicitis operation at Treleike Hospital, Truro reports, January 12, 13, letter, January 16, is surely that appropriate, trained and effective staff should carry out appropriate duties.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Truro case we should encourage specially trained nurses to do more. Equally, nurses are now expensive. More than half of all NHS staff are in nursing. If they want to help to raise clinical standards, it's time they gave way to cheaper and less skilled staff to do the mundane work.

Why, for instance, pay nurses £15,000-plus to make beds and serve meals? Let us see them do more in the theatres, and analyse the outcomes of these operations. This will speed up two necessary changes: the employment of fewer nurses, and a full analysis of multi-professional work and professional hierarchies based on hard clinical performance data.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SPIERS
Health Policy Adviser,
The Social Market Foundation,
14 St Thomas's Street,
Old Portsmouth, Hampshire,
January 16.

From Dr Stephen J. Lockwood

Sir, What is the root of the furor at Treleike Hospital? Is there a threat to the public, or is it simply a threat to the mystique surrounding doctors and their closed shop?

Many routine surgical procedures do not require the full training of a qualified surgeon. As with midwives delivering babies (an activity not without its hazards), the surgery for appendicitis, hernia and the like could be undertaken by operators qualified in each procedure, but no other. Training for this purpose would include identification of complications that require the attention of a duty registrar or consultant — as with midwifery.

If minor surgery can be delegated to less extensively trained personnel, the cost of such operations would fall, thereby leaving more of the stretched health budget available for those op-

erations which do require the skills of surgeons.

Yours truly,
STEPHEN J. LOCKWOOD,
7 Pine Court, Llanrwst Road,
Colwyn Bay, Clwyd.

From Mrs Iris White

Sir, I qualified SRN at Bangor, North Wales, in 1950 when it was common practice for qualified theatre nursing staff in the higher grades to assist the surgeon, tying and closing sutures, swabbing and sucking out the operative wound and retracting.

Skin suturing and simple operative techniques were commonly carried out by nursing staff, all under the direct supervision of the surgeon. This state of affairs continued throughout my time at Bangor and later as a theatre sister in the Princess Mary Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

Medical students and first-time surgical house officers have to perform such operations as appendectomy as part of their training. As a well qualified theatre sister, I feel I was more able to carry out such simple procedures than the above-mentioned staff.

Yours,
I. WHITE,
Wassledine, 4 Campton Road,
Gravenhurst, Bedfordshire.

From Dr Robert M. Bruce-Chwatt

Sir, Thank God for Simon Jenkins ("Thank you, nurse. Carry on", January 14), a voice of truth and reason. Thank you also all those theatre sisters and scrub nurses who helped me and taught me at least as much as my consultants ever did.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT M. BRUCE-CHWATT,
1 York Road, Richmond, Surrey,
January 14.

From Mr E. M. Holt, FRCS

Sir, I sincerely hope that if Simon Jenkins develops acute appendicitis he changes his mind about having the theatre sister do the operation.

Yours faithfully,
E. M. HOLT,
Frieze Farm, Crowsley,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

EU research grants

From the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Minister of Public Service and Science

Sir, Professor Handy (letter, January 3) is nearer to the mark than Mr Atkinson (letter, January 9). The UK is a net beneficiary, both in financial and scientific terms, from our involvement in the European Union's research programmes.

The UK has a deservedly very high reputation for the quality of its scientific research. Within the European framework, therefore, other member states in many cases look first to the UK for research partnerships. As a result, under the EU's Third Framework Programme, the UK was the leading research partner with six member states, including France and Germany, and secured more research contracts than any other member state.

Marriage locations

From the Director and Registrar General, Office of Population Censuses & Surveys

Sir, Your report, "Trawler weddings offer historic opportunity to become a fishwife" (January 6), referring to the opportunity of marriage ceremonies in a deep-sea fishing museum, will have confused many, and may have mistakenly heightened expectations.

Although the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949 will enable couples to choose to be married by civil ceremony in premises other than register offices, they will continue to ensure that such ceremonies are carried out at venues which are solemn and dignified. The only premises available will be ones which have been licensed by the local authority in whose area they are situated.

It is premature to say which pre-

Overall, we estimate that the financial return to the UK is a good deal higher than our notional contribution to this activity. Furthermore, there is no evidence that this is achieved at the expense of other, wider collaborations. Indeed, a recent study commissioned by the US National Science Foundation has found that EU research encourages teams to broaden their collaborative horizons.

It is clear that UK science is good for Europe and that European research programmes are good for the UK. We have now achieved an excellent outcome for the UK in our negotiation of the Fourth Framework Programme, running from now until 1998. It is important that our scientists build on this to secure still more contracts in the future.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HUNT,
Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, SW1,
January 10.

misses might be licensed because they will need to fulfil the requirements set out in regulations not yet laid before Parliament.

However, the draft regulations on which I have recently consulted interested bodies would not allow marriages to take place in open spaces, or in many of the more exotic venues which have been mooted in media reports, including ships at sea.

This new legislation does not alter the requirement that the premises must be "open to the public", or that the ceremony must be conducted by a superintendent registrar in the presence of a registrar.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. WORMALD,
Director and Registrar General,
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys,
St Catherine's House,
10 Kingsway, WC2.

Church and 'socialism'

From the Reverend Nicolas Stacey

Sir, I do not think Mr Witheridge (report, January 12, letters, January 17) realises the difference between being a parish priest in a secular age, in which much of what priests have traditionally done is carried out by lay professionals, and being chaplain of Eton. Today's priest in most parishes is finding a meaningful role very difficult, and it is almost inevitable that they should be flourishing.

Nobody would deny the importance of the work of the chaplain of Eton, but it would have been more helpful if, instead of wholesale condemnation of what his fellow-priests are doing in often desperately unrewarding situations, he had advised on what they should be doing. My own view is that the future of the Church lies in non-stipendiary priests working as a team but earning their living in key jobs, enabling them to influence the local community as social workers, teachers, police officers, lawyers etc.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLAS STACEY,
The Old Vicarage,
Selling, Faversham, Kent.

Soporific studies

From Dr A. Brearley

Sir, Roy Hattersley was wise ("Death by political memoir", January 10) not to write a learned monograph entitled "Government and Trade Unions: Models of Intervention in Pay Bargaining no longer in Frequent Use", following his 1976 Cabinet experience.

I was daft enough to research and write my doctoral thesis of 1978 on the same subject, with the very title, "Trade Union Negotiations and Plant Collective Bargaining during Statutory Restraint on Incomes".

Apart from the two very distinguished professors of industrial relations who examined and passed it, nobody has read it since. It just shows how much brighter some politicians are than we poor industrialists.

Yours faithfully,
A. BREARLEY (Chairman),
Huthwaite Research Group,
Hoobee House, Wrentham,
Rotherham, South Yorkshire,
January 11.

Millennial honour to English tongue?

From the President of the Library Association and others

Sir, We hope that the Commissioners of the Millennium Fund will have the vision to ensure that "lasting monuments to the achievements and aspirations of the United Kingdom" really do receive a proper share of the £1.6 billion of lottery proceeds they plan to distribute. It would be sad if our millennium schemes were to seem ephemeral to our great-grandchildren.

Of all our common achievements of the past one thousand years the English language and its literature are our greatest, yet we have no permanent institution celebrating them. We are aware of the great strengths of the British Library and our many other libraries, but we believe our citizens deserve and our visitors require a centre, wider in scope and more imaginatively conceived than even the best library can be, reflecting the glory and the enduring inheritance of our language.

Nor are we thinking only of the past: contemporary British literature in all its forms is vibrant and energetic. The new institution which we envisage should be as much a word factory as a word museum.

There will never be a better opportunity to construct, or restore, a building that will provide us all with a national centre for our literature. We urge the Secretary of State for National Heritage and his Millennium Commissioners to fund such a project.

Yours faithfully,
MELVYN BARNES (Library Association),
JAMES BERRY,
CLIVE BRADLEY
(Publishers Association),
DAINTON,

MARTYN GOFF (Book Trust),
RONALD HARWOOD
(International PEN),
TIM HEALD,
MICHAEL HOLROYD
(Literature Panel, Arts Council of England),
DAVID MCDONALD
(Waterstones Booksellers),
KATE MUSSE,
URSULA OWEN (Index on Censorship),
TOM ROSENTHAL (André Deutsch),
ION TREWIN (Wendell and Nicolson),
MARINA WARNER,
c/o Book Trust, 45 East Hill, SW18,
January 17.

English composers

From Mr David Eden

Sir, We are delighted to salute the memory of Purcell (leading article, January 7, letters, January 14): may his shadow never grow less. But we cannot allow you to undervalue the extraordinary mastery of the English language displayed by Sir Arthur Sullivan by referring to a "musical ice age".

Sullivan's mastery is evident not merely in his world-famous operas, but in such marvellous works as the Shakespearean duet "How sweet the moonlight sleeps" in *Kenilworth* or his wonderfully felicitous settings in the *Merry Wives of Windsor* music. His official commissions — the Festival Te Deum, the Boer War Te Deum, the Imperial Ode, *On Shore and Sea* — are quite fit to be compared with Purcell's *Welcome Songs and Odes*.

Sullivan died on St Cecilia's Day, 1900. Let us hope that when this centenary occurs *The Times*, at least, will know better than to repeat the hoary old myth about the void between Purcell and Elgar. You could thus right the wrong done by the man who invented it — for the benefit not of Elgar but of Sir Hubert Parry — your own critic, J. A. Fuller Maitland.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID EDEN
(Honorary Chairman,
The Sir Arthur Sullivan Society),
55 Radwinter Road,
Saffron Walden, Essex,
January 7.

Not out to lunch

From Mr Michael Brunson

Sir, Perhaps PHS should follow Mr Neil Kinnock's example (Diary, January 18) and abstain from lunch, because not doing so has impaired his or her vision.

Mr Kinnock was not "heartily sucking in" with me at a restaurant in Westminster yesterday, delightful though that would have been. He was at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, along with the rest of the European Commission.

And, contrary to public belief, I do occasionally eat a sandwich at my desk at lunchtime, as I did on the day in question.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL BRUNSON
(Political Editor, ITN),
Press Gallery,
House of Commons,
January 18.

Bones of contention

From Mr David Foskett, QC

Sir, Divorce disputes concerning train sets, Kenwood mixers and even loo rolls (Diary, January 14) are but nothing. I was once involved in a matrimonial case in which a major issue was the final resting place of a stuffed woodpecker.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FOSKETT,
1 Crown Office Road, Temple, EC4,
January 15.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 42

OBITUARIES

LORD KAGAN

Lord Kagan, textile manufacturer and creator of the Gannex raincoat, died on January 17 aged 79. He was born on June 6, 1915.

JOSEPH KAGAN was a Lithuanian-born businessman who found considerable commercial success in Britain during the 1950s and 1960s. His technical ingenuity, combined with some unorthodox business behaviour, brought prosperity to the firm of Kagan Textiles which he founded in 1951. But added to his success as an entrepreneur there was the unlikely political dimension of his friendship with Harold Wilson, for whom wearing a Gannex raincoat became a kind of personal trademark. Yet the relationship was not all one-sided. It was Wilson who in 1970 recommended Kagan for a knighthood and who in 1976 created him a life peer in his notorious "lavender" Resignation Honours List.

It was a piece of public patronage that Wilson was later to have every cause to rue. Four years after his introduction to the House of Lords, Kagan was in prison, having been convicted of four charges of theft and five of false accounting. Sentenced to ten months' imprisonment and personally fined a total of £56,000, he was while in jail stripped of his knighthood by the Queen.

But, for reasons that the public found hard to understand, he was allowed to retain his life peerage (to have removed it would have required a special Act of Parliament) and six months after coming out of Rudgegate Open Prison, near York, he was to be found cheerfully taking the oath once again in the House of Lords for the 1982 parliamentary session. In the following years, while not speaking regularly (though occasionally on war crimes trials or penal matters), he was to become something of a fixture of the Second Chamber, resolutely greeting even visitors to the dining-room as long lost friends.

The truth was that there was an irrepressible quality about him — exposed in its less admirable form by his decision to abscond abroad, accompanied by his attractive secre-



tary, when criminal charges were initially threatened against him. Leaving his wife and business associates to face the music, he travelled to Israel and a number of European countries and at first strenuously resisted extradition — claiming that he was not ready to surrender himself — until he was sure he was buying the freedom of those other innocents (already, as it happened,

arraigned in the dock at Leeds Crown Court). To his credit, however, after they were acquitted, Kagan did not contest the various counts that were brought against him.

It was in 1937, accompanied by his father, that Kagan first came to Britain from his home town of Kovno in Lithuania. He studied at Leeds University, gaining the degree of BComm (Textiles) even before the

outbreak of the Second World War. He was unlucky enough to return to Lithuania for a holiday in the early days of the war and, having survived the Soviet occupation, found himself herded along with other Jews by the Germans into the ghetto of Vilijampole in 1941. There his native resourcefulness and cunning triumphed. With his mother and fiancée he hid under the eaves of a factory roof and eventually carried out a well-planned escape.

Back in Britain in 1946 Kagan, who had married his fiancée in Lithuania in 1943, started his company, Kagan Textiles, originally with £8 in cash. He first produced his stylish and efficient Gannex raincoat in 1951 and in the same year made his business into a private company, taking over the century-old firm of J. T. and T. Taylor of Brighouse, Yorkshire. His new raincoat was of waterproof nylon bonded to a woollen lining, so arranged that there was an intermediate layer of insulation against the cold. He soon had the satisfaction of seeing not only Wilson but other public figures, including the Duke of Edinburgh, wearing the Gannex on more relaxed public occasions. He himself even sent one to Khrushchev.

Wilson's initial admiration for Kagan sprang in part from his ownership of a successful, profit-sharing business in the Prime Minister's native district of the West Riding — which at that time certainly needed some success stories. The "white heat, technological" side of Wilson also responded well to Kagan's industrial philosophy — which was that, if one did not branch out into new lines, one's firm would soon be "100 years old and 50 years dead".

When, in time, the appeal of the Gannex began to fade, Kagan followed his own maxim by being ready with alternative lines of denims, jeans and modern luggage.

But there is little doubt that he was a baleful influence within No 10. He had assumed his own position there by working through Marcia Williams, the Prime Minister's personal and political secretary (later Lady Falkender), for whom he both put down the deposit and underwrote the

mortgage when she acquired her first flat in 1967. Dark and stocky, and characterised by an Eastern European ebullience, Kagan became very much the focus of the Downing Street social scene — at least in the days of the first two Wilson Governments. There were those even then who were shocked by his presence at the centre of things — not least among them the sports journalist, John Moynihan, whose marriage he ruthlessly proceeded to break up. But for a time, in Wilson's eyes, he could do no wrong.

He had, however, fallen from grace long before his arrest and conviction. For the former Prime Minister in retirement — already embroiled over scandals (including a suicide) attached to other names in his final Honours List — the cloud of suspicion building up over Kagan's sexual and business activities could not have been more inconvenient. Nor were matters helped when after his trial at Leeds Crown Court a number of newspapers speculated on the exact relationship of the Labour Government and the Security Service to Kagan's commercial activities — forcing the former Prime Minister to issue an official statement denying a number of allegations.

In one respect, the Director of Public Prosecutions behaved remarkably leniently towards Kagan as a convicted defendant. He was given until 1993 to pay a £375,000 fine levied in 1980 on one of his companies for evasion of Corporation Tax and Customs duties. Whether this fine was ever paid in full was never officially disclosed but it may have been significant that in 1987 Kagan sold both his grand houses in Yorkshire, living the last seven years of his life in a London flat. It was entirely typical of his *chutzpah* that he should have explained the decision to sell on the ground that he was "now spending so much time in London at the House of Lords" that he really had no need of the other properties.

Lord Kagan is survived by his wife, their two sons and a daughter and a son by his 1960s' association with Judy Moynihan, who in 1970 became Mrs Michael Astor.

IAN GRIMBLE



Ian Grimbale, writer, historian and broadcaster, died in Bettyhill, Caithness, on January 14 aged 73. He was born in Hong Kong on August 7, 1921.

THE tiny Caithness village of Bettyhill first kindled Ian Grimbale's admiration and love of the Scottish people. It was this place, on the far north coast of Scotland, which inspired the many books, television broadcasts and lecture tours which made him one of the most popular of postwar historians, combining scholarship with a sure instinct for communication.

Grimbale's television series on Scottish history, broadcast in the 1970s, achieved record viewing figures at the time and prompted the BBC producer Gordon Menzies, who made them with him, to describe Grimbale as "the most compelling television presenter of Scottish history there has ever been". His tall, angular figure, stooping forward to catch some inflection of language, or gently probing for information, conveyed a sense of boyish enthusiasm for the past which was infectious.

Ian Naughton Grimbale was born in Hong Kong where his father, who came from the Borders family, was in the import-export business. His uncle was the writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose book *A Pattern of Islands* about the South Seas, has become a classic. His father later went to live in America, and the younger Grimbale was brought up in Winchester by his mother and a step-father. He was educated at Shrewsbury, which he disliked, and won a scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, which he loved. There he read law, did private tutoring to pay for his course, and, more importantly, attended seminars on Gaelic where he was introduced to the poetry of the great Duncan Ban Macintyre. He also began learning the language. He was awarded a first in Jurisprudence but decided not to pursue a legal career, taking a job instead as researcher in the House of Commons library.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the Guards. He was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps, however, where, a great linguistic ability allowed him to learn Japanese in a matter of weeks, and he was posted to India. He was captured in Delhi where he was involved in decoding Japanese military signals. He climbed the Himalayas with the mountaineer Wilfred Noyce, served in an Army rehabilitation unit, and acquired an interest in Buddhism which was to become his own religion.

After the war he joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve which took him to Scandinavia, a visit which was to lead to an early book about Denmark. But it was a trip to Bettyhill in Caithness in 1946 which bonded him to Scotland. He and his closest friend John More found a community with qualities of humanity and simple friendliness which they had not encountered elsewhere. In those days it was so poor that the village existed on virtually a barter economy, but neighbours helped each other as a matter of course, and Grimbale always felt that they were in closer touch with the fundamentals of life than any other people he had ever met.

He joined the BBC in 1955 and was a pioneer of local broadcasting. Travelling from his base at Rosemarkie on the Black Isle, he helped to set up the first VHF local service in Britain, with transmitting masts at Rosemarkie, Thurston and Orkney. Later he developed a keen interest in television, working with Alasdair Milne, later Director General of the BBC, and the broadcaster Finlay J. MacDonald, with whom he shared a love and knowledge of Gaelic. This led to his two television series, *Who Are the Scots?* and *The Scottish Nation* which, though broadcast at the late hour of 11.15pm, achieved viewing figures of 500,000 in Scotland, a figure which today's BBC chief would envy. He never used a camera from memory. There were other series on Scottish islands, castles and the Regency period, but none achieved quite the popularity of the early ones.

His interest in Gaelic led him to do a PhD at Aberdeen University where his thesis on Gaelic society in the north-east of Scotland resulted in his most famous book, *The Tria of Patrick Sellar*, about the Clearances. Among his other works were *Chief of Mackay* about the Clan Mackay, which he became an honorary member, *The World of Rob Donn*, about the 18th-century Sutherland poet Rob Donn Mackay, *Scottish Clans and Tartans, Clans and Chiefs* and *The Future of the Highlands*. But he wrote on other subjects as well, notably an account of Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales, called *The Harrington Family*, and a life of Admiral Coadunne, *The Sea Wolf*. His most recent book, published last year, was a novel, *A Start in Life*.

In the 1980s he began taking tours to places like the Hebrides and the Faeroes, enchanting his listeners with his knowledge and love of the places they visited. He never married.

MARY COUNTESS OF PEMBROKE AND MONTGOMERY



Mary Countess of Pembroke and Montgomery, CVO, widow of the 16th Earl and a Lady-in-Waiting to the late Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, died on January 16 aged 91. She was born on December 31, 1903.

MARY Countess of Pembroke was the scion of an important Scottish family who married into an equally important English one, the Herberts. She was born Lady Mary Dorothea Hope, and was the only surviving daughter of the 1st Marquess of Linlithgow, who had been the first Governor-General of Australia. She was the sister of the 2nd Marquess, who served as Viceroy of India from 1936 to 1943, and she was the great-aunt of the present Marquess of Linlithgow.

The Hope family has a long and distinguished record of service not only to Crown and country but also to the law and the sciences. Their earliest ancestor was John Hope, a burgess of Edinburgh, who

served at the court of King James IV of Scotland. The family settled in Edinburgh in 1572, following the Massacre of St Bartholomew.

A descendant of John Hope, Sir James Hope, married into the Foulis family, bringing valuable lead mines to the family and employing mining skills to good advantage in West Lothian. It was his son John Hope (1650-82) who bought the lands of Abercorn, south of the Firth of Forth, calling the site Hopetoun. He began to build the present house, but was drowned in a shipwreck accompanying the future King James II of England on a sea voyage to Scotland.

Hence it was his son, the 1st Earl of Hopetoun, who was the first to live at the new house, the original part by Sir William Bruce being completed in 1707 and the additions by William Adam in 1721. It stands today in magnificent parkland on the banks of the Firth of Forth.

Here Lady Mary spent her early childhood, while her father served as Secretary of

State for Scotland. The men of the Hope family have often been short-lived and sadly her father died in 1908, when she was four. She was then raised by her mother, a daughter of the 4th Lord Ventry, who moved to Ascot and lived until 1937.

In 1934 Lady Mary was appointed as Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Marina, on her marriage to the Duke of Kent. She served until 1949, continuing as an Extra Lady-in-Waiting thereafter and being appointed CVO in 1947. The Duke and Duchess of Kent's household was joined in 1935 by a new equestrian, Lord Herbert, heir to the title of Pembroke, and the following year he and Lady Mary were married in Westminster Abbey, with the Duke of Kent serving as best man.

The match was seen by friends as a great blessing because Sidney Herbert — a shy and sensitive man — had been somewhat under the thumb of his domineering mother, Bea (who outlived him). The novelist Edith Olivier, who was a neighbour of the Herberts at Wilton, their estate near Salisbury, wrote of his bride: "Her repose and dignity cover lots of observation. She rattles with fun, can laugh at herself and laugh at me while walking with the Town Council."

During the war Lady Herbert was an honorary first officer in the WRNS, of which the Duchess of Kent was Commandant. When the Duke of Kent was killed in a flying accident in 1942, the King asked Lord Herbert — at the funeral at Windsor — if he would continue to act as controller to the widowed Duchess. Meanwhile, the Pembrokes had had a son and a daughter, the present Earl and his unmarried sister Lady Diana Herbert.

Lord Herbert succeeded as 16th Earl of Pembroke in 1960 and moved into Wilton. Mary Pembroke was thus mistress,

for nearly a decade in the 1960s, of the great house designed by Inigo Jones, Cecil Beaton, a Wilshire neighbour, wrote that they kept up the tradition of the Edwardian house party and observed with delight the octogenarian Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, playing croquet under the cedars of Lebanon in the park. When the Queen dined at the house, the best china was produced, but it was considered so valuable that the servants refused to risk cleaning it. Lady Pembroke was therefore obliged to wash it up herself.

They also held memorable ball there in 1960, at which Lady Diana Cooper suggested she spend the night in a caravan as all the local houses were packed with guests. Lord Pembroke was heard to respond to the idea with: "I can't have any eccentricity in the park." Friends found this a particularly entertaining reaction given the eccentricity endured by the family during his brother David Herbert's sojourn in the park at Wilton.

Lord Pembroke was a scholar and took a great interest in his family, producing a volume on the Herberts in the 18th century, *Henry, Elizabeth and George (1699)*, and later cataloguing the paintings and drawings at Wilton. His love of the house was shared and fostered by his wife.

After Lord Pembroke's death in 1969, Mary Pembroke moved to the Old Rectory in the town of Wilton, where she lived until her death, and served as a Deputy Lieutenant for Wiltshire.

In 1982 she survived a serious car accident, having to be cut free from her car after it had gone out of control. This kept her in plaster and on sticks for a long time, but she was mobile enough to attend a splendid 90th birthday party given for her by her son at Wilton House in 1993.

He survives her, together with her daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL BEST THEATRE, CONCERT, RUGBY WORLD CUP, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 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BOOK Malaysia Airlines Saturday night departure from London to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore and fly for almost half-price. Travel Bug of Manchester is charging £2,226 return first (£4,383 normally) and £1,485 return (£2,208 normally) for business class. You can return on any flight. Details: 061-740 8996.

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Lucky break

DEPART from London before March 15 and you can visit both Sydney and Tokyo for £570. London's Travel Warehouse has negotiated the special fare with Japan Airlines and passengers can break their journey in Japan — in Tokyo or Osaka — on the way home to Britain from Sydney. Details: 071 414 8808

Great Scots

INTERCITY is challenging the airlines with a Scottish Executive Ticket. Costing £150 return, it includes first class rail travel to London from any Scottish station and London plus free parking, meal vouchers and London Underground tickets. Details: 031-556 5633.

Timesaver

PASSENGERS with hand luggage can now check in by telephone when flying home from Paris with Air France. The timesaving service means you need not collect your boarding pass until 30 minutes before departure.

All change

THE Taiwanese airline EVA Air is transferring its London-Taipei flights from Gatwick in favour of Heathrow from January 24. EVA's business-class fare of £1,630 return remains unchanged. Details: 0473-214305.

Wheel deal

EUROSTAR rail passengers are being offered preferential car rental rates of as little as £39 a day with Europcar on arrival in Paris or Brussels.

Insurers shy away from slopes

Marianne Curphey and Doug Sager on why full cover for snow holidays is becoming hard to find

Skiers will get less cover next year because insurance companies are out of pocket after paying compensation for lack of snow. During Christmas and New Year, several resorts in Italy, France and Switzerland were closed or had fewer lifts open than usual.

Insurers now face expensive claims under "snow guarantees". These guarantees, which may be dropped next year, pay out generous compensation if no skiing is available. Introduced as a marketing ploy after a run of poor winters in the late 1980s, they were intended to reassure skiers. Some companies also allow holidays to be cancelled if there is not enough snow.

Premiums for winter 1995-96 are unlikely to increase because research has shown that skiers are unwilling to pay more than an average of £35 for ten days' insurance.

Jonathan Buttery, a director of Hamilton Barr, winter sports insurance brokers, says that cover for piste closure may not be available, or at least, more restricted.

David Hearn of the Ski Club of Great Britain says: "People have forgotten the problems in the late 1980s when three winters were very patchy."

"Even those holidaymakers

who do have snow guarantees this year may find that the policy small print restricts their claim. Some resorts are closed as often as if just one lift is functioning, regardless of the difficulty of the run."

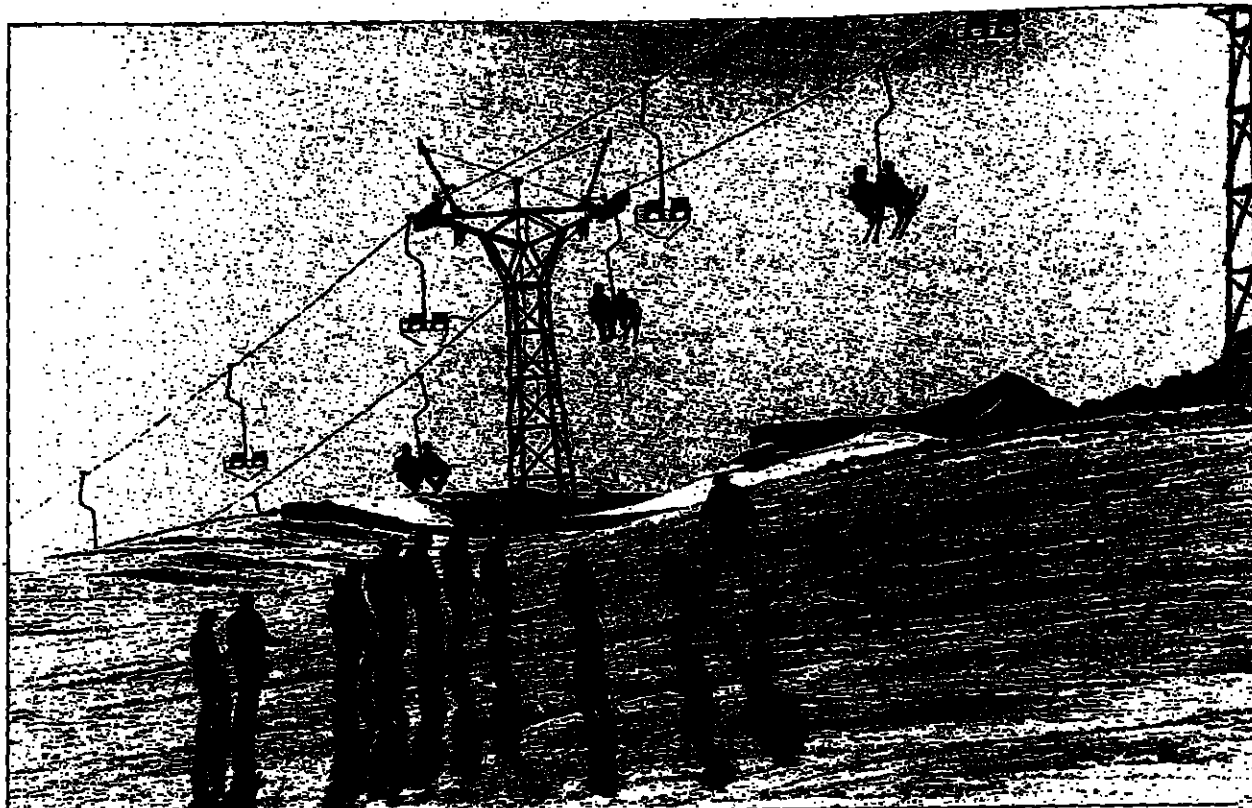
"Skiers should look carefully at the policy they are buying. Statistically, it is extremely unlikely that every lift in a resort will be closed."

"For about £179, some of the multiples are aggressively selling the lesser-known Italian resorts, where you would be pushing your luck to find good snow."

"Val d'Isere and Zermatt are expensive precisely because they have a long season and the snow is usually good."

Accident & General, the big travel-insurance broker, says that skiers should ensure that they have medical cover of up to £1 million, payment of between £25,000 and £30,000 for total disablement and cover for liability if they cause an accident.

Insurance cover costs more for skiers to North America and some companies will not cover off-piste activities, although Crystal has a winter sports policy covering ice-skating, tobogganing, dog-sledding and off-piste skiing. Saga has launched a winter



Fun on the slopes. But when the skiing has to stop, insurance companies are wounded by big compensation payments

sports policy for the over-50s, breaking with the custom of charging more — sometimes double — for policies for older skiers.

Meanwhile, as the price of six-day ski passes rise to more than £150 a week in Verbier, Europe's most expensive ski resort, counterfeiting is becoming a serious problem. Officials in the resorts of St

Anton, Chamonix and Courmayeur all admit that some falsification of ski passes does occur.

Swiss officials say some skiers use passes in the morning and try to sell them to afternoon skiers. Such discount reselling is a breach of the contract entered into with the ski-lift company at the time of ticket purchase.

Lift companies have tried to control reselling by insisting day tickets are glued to metal hangers which cannot be removed from ski clothing without destroying the ticket. A full day ticket in Zermatt costs more than £30 and can usually be resold after a morning's skiing for about half that price.

However, resorts are far more concerned about the sale

of false season passes. A season pass in Verbier costs about £625. In Verbier, St Anton and Chamonix, which have large populations of skiers, the traffic in illegal ski passes is highest. Passes are photocopied on a sophisticated colour machine in a nearby city and re-sealed in plastic. Spot checks have resulted in confiscation.



The Hotel Eden, in Rome — one of the hotels Forte is using to woo executives

Forte tempts high-flyers

The Forte hotel group has launched a new attempt to woo top business and leisure travellers to stay in its leading hotels, such as the Plaza Athénée in Paris, the newly refurbished Eden in Rome and the Hyde Park in central London.

For the first time, it is marketing all 17 of these hotels as a collection of "exclusive" properties, aiming to encourage executives to stay in a Forte Exclusive hotel when travelling throughout Europe. The move has also fuelled

speculation that it could lead to closer links with the Savoy Group of luxury hotels, including the Berkeley, Connaught, Claridge's and the Savoy. Though Forte owns the majority of the Savoy Group shares, it does not have voting control and the group's management has previously resisted closer ties with Forte.

However, the appointment last year of Ramon Pajares as the Savoy's managing director could mean a change of heart.

group revamping its marketing approach. Copthorne Hotels, which is owned by Aer Lingus, this week made a joint sales and marketing agreement with the Scandinavian hotel group Scandic Crown.

Both groups have largely complementary portfolios of hotels: Copthorne has 13 four-star properties in the UK, and Scandic has 23 on mainland Europe, as well as 71 in Scandinavia.

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Tax is to be levied on 'fun' transport. Should it be fought, or is the increase the very least of the tourist industry's worries?

No sooner had Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, convinced leaders of Britain's travel and tourism industries that the Government really did have their interests at heart, than the Paymaster General revealed details of plans to impose VAT on "fun" transport.

The new taxes are due to come into effect on April 1 and, even though they were first mentioned in the small print of the Chancellor's November Budget, they appear to have both enraged and surprised the tourism industry.

As the Paymaster General, David Heathcoat-Amory, went through the Value Added Tax (Transport) Order of 1994 late last Wednesday evening, he was repeatedly interrupted by MPs from both sides of the political divide. They accused the Government of introducing the tax "out of the

It's not worth taxing yourself over VAT

blue", of "not consulting the industry", and of "hiding it among a plethora of Budget papers".

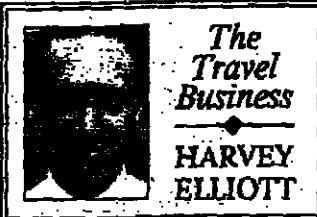
The new 17.5 per cent VAT, they claimed, would damage tourism, force coach companies out of business, keep foreigners away, destroy jobs, upset volunteers on historic railways and generally prove a disaster for both business and leisure travellers.

Some of the language was, in fact, the least, intemperate. From Conservative Sir Peter Fry warning that he could not support "a somewhat mean little measure" to Labour's David Marshall, describing the proposals as "one of the vilest measures introduced by the Government in any time in the

House", the insults rained down on the Paymaster General.

I rarely find myself on the side of the Government against the travel industry, but on this occasion I do. The opponents of the VAT extension have, I believe, allowed themselves to become hysterical, carried away with their own rhetoric. They are now lashing out with accusations which do not stand up to scrutiny.

Also, by making a fuss about an unimportant and perfectly logical bit of taxation housekeeping, they have taken their eye off far worse things being done by the Government which will harm tourism. The entire industry meekly allowed the introduction of the



truly iniquitous airport passenger tax which hooks £10 from the pockets of every long-haul airline passenger, whether British or foreign, and £5 from anyone flying within Britain or the Continent. Britain levies a rate of 17.5 per cent VAT on hotel accommodation, higher than any other European country except Denmark. No won-

der holidaymakers flock to Spain, where it is only 6 per cent. France where it is 5.5 per cent. Greece at 8 per cent or Luxembourg, where it is lowest of all at 3 per cent.

Customs and Excise maintains that Britain wants to make taxation simple and VAT must therefore be either zero or 17.5 per cent. That has as much logic as the great pianist Artur Schnabel who, when judging a piano competition, gave the players either nought out of 20 or 20 out of 20 because "they can either play, or they can't play".

These and other government actions need fighting and arguing about daily. Changes which simply tidy up the system do not. In many instances the latest

changes were brought about by the financial sharpness of the industry itself. One change, for example, levies VAT on the entire cost of entrance to an amusement park, even if it contains a ride on a train or some other transport.

Accountants had spotted that VAT was not payable on public transport so any theme park which contained a ride of some sort loaded this into the total cost of entrance, and deducted VAT accordingly. Legal, clearly. But fair? Similarly, off-airport car parks pay VAT. But the free lifts to the airport became "transport" and therefore not subject to VAT. Year by year the VAT-free element

crept up until it attracted the attention of the taxmen.

"Park and ride" schemes in cities, trips on vintage railways and even seaside donkey rides — which the more extreme elements claimed would be "crucified" by the proposals — are exempt. In all it will raise no more than £45 million in a full year — peanuts in comparison with other taxes borne without fuss by the industry.

Balloons which can carry more than 12 people will be subject to VAT — and as there are about 100 of these operating in Britain they probably have most to complain about. Concorde trips "around the bay" will also have to incorporate VAT. But as at best there are around 60 of these in a full year, should we really shed a tear?

We must prevent our representatives from losing credibility by fighting the wrong battles.

More traffic crosses the Channel

Steve Keenan reports on timetables and prices for the year ahead

Eurostar ticket sales to Paris through the Channel Tunnel are outstripping those to Brussels by two to one. While Belgian railways — one of the three rail companies operating Eurostar — is concerned at this early performance, the British and French railways are amazed at the demand for Paris.

Weekday departures to the French capital are being increased from three to four from Monday, while a fifth service will also operate on Friday and Sunday evenings. A third Brussels daily service is also being added, at 6.57am, in a bid to appeal to the business community. "The new service will give us a better idea of the market," a spokesman said.

Since operations began in Waterloo on November 14, the load factors on Brussels have been less than 50 per cent. But on Paris, first-class

load factors have been 81 per cent and in standard class, 68 per cent. "It reflects the fact that first-class is extremely cheap compared with the airlines," a Eurostar spokesman said.

Air France is among those carrying out a hard appraisal of its routes and frequencies from the UK. It has already announced that it is to suspend Glasgow-Paris services from March 26.

While not a direct result of the Channel Tunnel opening, the airline has moved a senior executive from London back to Paris to concentrate on its UK network. Regis Adam says: "We will not cut out frequencies (currently nine on weekdays) but we may change to smaller planes."

Eurostar will announce new fare structures in March for the summer season. Currently, it is charging £95 for standard returns booked 14 days in advance, unrestricted standard fares at £155 and first class at £195.

Le Shuttle will also revise its fare structure upwards for the summer season. It will announce new fares in February to become effective on April 1. It now operates an hourly departure from 7am to 11pm, and is looking to move to two

an hour by April this year. The ferry companies entered 1995 wary of Le Shuttle but were buoyed by figures showing dramatic growth on the cross-Channel market. About 13 million people took a return crossing in 1994, taking 2.25 million cars. According to Brittany Ferries, there was 13 per cent passenger growth on the Channel market. How much is cheap, day-trip or excursion traffic is debatable.

The best estimates show about 25 million on the Dover-Calais route, equivalent to 20 per cent of the Channel market and the route directly affected by Le Shuttle. Brittany estimates 40 per cent of business on the route is day-trippers.

The importance of the day-trip market to the ferry operators is evident. No wonder Le Shuttle introduced a day-trip twice in its new fare structure, which a spokesman said is "selling well".

According to Stena, the nominal ticket price does not even cover port duties at this time of the year. However, the ships on the route have to be filled and money made on on-board sales.

Hoverspeed admits to close on 40 per cent of its year-round revenue, coming from on-board sales. P&O 25 per cent and Brittany 7 per cent.

The ferries want to avoid a repeat of 1994 price-cutting this summer, and will think long and hard before bringing out third and fourth edition brochures. But in the longer term, the implications are still considerable. P&O has publicly stated that it is less interested in pooling services with Stena on the Dover-Calais route after the bruising price wars and marketing tactics of last summer.

The stance gives rise to the prospect of mayhem as and when Stena or P&O reduce frequencies on Dover-Calais, currently 25 a day each at peak, as they eventually will in the face of Le Shuttle.

1995 and 1996 will be the bloodiest years ever seen on the Channel. It may be good for the consumer but agent and operator business is another story.

After years of decline, there is hope of charity money for our crumbling seaside heritage



Brighton Palace Pier ranks as one of the country's most visited attractions, with more than 3.5 million people treading its boards every year

Some of Britain's best-loved seaside piers, crumbling and neglected for years, could be saved and restored with funds from the National Lottery. Owners of some of the 50 existing piers are putting together bids for the estimated £150 million available this year for good causes connected with heritage.

Winter gales and changing holiday habits have taken their toll on the piers, which were built in the Victorian era to house cafes, amusements, theatres and a landing stage for paddle steamers. Of the 100 structures built, half have been lost and eight of the survivors are closed or under threat. Families who once thronged the wooden decks have deserted them for cheap foreign packages.

Most of the lottery fund

Pier pressures

National Lottery money may help to revitalise Britain's much-loved Victorian relics, says Marianne Curphey

applicants — who must be from charities or voluntary organisations — are asking for between £100,000 and £300,000 for the renovation or upkeep of their piers. The cost of upkeep is anything between £25,000 and £250,000 a year, three times higher than for land-based attractions.

The English Tourist Board, which is backing the applications, says piers are important landmarks and a cherished part of seaside culture.

John East, ETB chief execu-

tive, says: "We are helping and advising pier owners because we feel it is possible for them to become good commercial operations with a little help."

New year has been designated the Year of the Pier and a committee is already discussing ways of celebrating it. One of the most famously stricken piers is the Grade I listed Brighton West Pier, badly damaged in the 1987 storm. The section nearest the shore was demolished for safety reasons and the main

part is now isolated like an island.

It is owned by a trust although the local council takes a close interest in its future. Deborah Grubb, arts and leisure director for Brighton council, says the opportunity for a grant was "too good to miss".

She says: "We estimate it will cost £20 million to repair but it is such a fine example of Victorian engineering that we would like to keep and restore it."

The trust recently turned down an offer by the Brighton boxer Chris Eubank to restore the pier and build himself a luxury home at the end of it.

Further along the coast, Brighton Palace Pier is one of the country's most visited attractions, pulling in more than 3.5 million sightseers every year.

David Bateman, the secretary of the National Piers Society, says the prospect of extra money is "very good news". He names among his favourites Birbeck pier, Weston-super-Mare; Colwyn Bay pier; Llandudno pier; Queen's pier in Ramsey, Isle of Man; and those in Southend and Southport.

The first new pier to be built for 80 years is under construction at Weston-super-Mare, where the council is working to regenerate the town.

Pilot error is the biggest killer

The number of passengers who died in airline accidents around the world in the whole of last year rose by 25 per cent to 1,385 — about the same number of people as are killed on the roads of Britain alone every four months.

With air transport of all kinds now growing rapidly, the surprising fact is that the number of fatal crashes, including those in both the former Soviet Union and in China, was lower in 1994 than in 1993 — 47, compared with 48 — reflecting an increase in the size of commercial aircraft.

Pilot error was the main cause of the crashes, according to a review of world airline accidents by *Flight International* magazine. The figures appear to indicate that, despite big improvements in aircraft mechanical reliability, the human is still the weakest link.

The report, compiled from initial investigations, showed that 31 accidents were caused at least in part by crew error. 16 were caused by weather problems, 15 when the aircraft flew into the ground for no apparent reason, seven by engine failure, three by structural failure, two by an operational problem, one by a maintenance fault and one by a fire in the cabin.

International safety organisations have become increasingly concerned about the apparent lack of improvement in crew safety standards, even in the latest high technology aircraft with electronic systems designed to eliminate pilot mistakes.

Led by the Federal Aviation Administration from the United States they are now urgently reviewing "human factors" in the cockpit.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Swoop on the Riviera fakers

FRANCE'S Customs service claimed an important victory in its battle against imported fake luxury goods from Italy yesterday after conducting the 10,000th spot-check in recent weeks on cross-border travellers along the French Riviera, Tony Rocco writes.

Since the operation began before Christmas, more than 750 counterfeit items have been seized from 300 people. They included imitation Louis Vuitton and Chanel leather bags, and Rolex and Cartier watches. These, and copies of other fashionable branded products, make up a trade worth £4.2 billion a year.

The operation, which is continuing, has been designed to alert ordinary travellers to new laws which effectively place casual bargain hunters in the same category as drugs or arms traffickers. Anyone caught with a counterfeit product, of a French brand or otherwise, not only risks having it confiscated, but Customs officials may also impose a fine of up to twice the retail price of the true item. If the case goes to court, culprits can be fined up to £20,000 or jailed for up to two years. The real trademark holder may also sue privately for damages.

Few among the thousands of holidaymakers who regularly cross the Riviera border with Italy have appreciated the change or even been aware of it. Markets at Ventimiglia and San Remo have continued to attract buyers for goods which are a fraction of the price of the genuine article. Often, any difference is discernible only by the most expert eye.

Police and Customs are still trying to catch one French gang of men and women which poses as a coach party of day-trippers, each of whom buys 20 to 30 bogus items to order.

We wish you weren't here

DAVID MELLOR has been voted Britain's least desirable travelling companion, followed by Ian Beale from *EastEnders*, Judith Chalmers and Naomi Campbell, according to a survey. Nearly half of all those questioned in a poll by STA Travel named the Putney MP as the person with whom they would prefer not to journey. Half named Calais as the most boring destination, followed by Luxembourg, Detroit and Belgium.

THE Queen is to name P&O's 69,000-ton liner *Oriana* in a ceremony at Southampton on April 6. The 2,000-passenger superliner is the first to be designed specifically for the British market. The vessel will carry out 17 European and Caribbean cruises during 1995 before sailing on her maiden voyage around the world in January 1996.

BRITISH Airways is offering passengers the chance to get married at 30,000 ft after a



We have other plans: David Mellor and Judith Chalmers



change in the rules governing wedding venues in April. The airline will supply a vicar to officiate — the law says venues must be "stationary" — so the legal section of the wedding will be held while the plane is on the runway and the blessing can be done while the party is airborne. BA is anticipating requests for weddings aboard Concorde.

THE Society of Public Health is warning travellers to ensure that they have protection against malaria when travelling to risk areas. More than 1,900 cases of malaria were reported in the UK in 1993 compared with 1,400 cases in 1982.

PARIS Travel Service (0992 456000) has special offers in

January, February, March, July and August. Customers booking into the Hotel George V, close to the Champs-Élysées, will be given a bottle of champagne, perfume and flowers. Prices start from £299 per person including bed and breakfast.

A LAST-minute booking service for late availability ski holidays in France has been launched by Connect France (0500 456645). Operators include Bladen Lines, Cresta, Crystal, Enna Low, Mark Warner, Saly, Ski Bound, Ski Spirit, Ski 3000 and Travelscene. The computer provides information on individual resorts or operators.

AUSTRALVEL (071-734 7755) has one-way flights to Australia and New Zealand for £250 until March and return flights on Britannia Airways and Air New Zealand to Australia and the South Pacific from £854.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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NEWS

Mortgages to cost more

The elusive "feel-good" factor slipped further from the Government's grasp as millions of homeowners faced a further increase in mortgage payments and inflation figures showed a surprising jump in December. The news, overshadowed by improved job figures, with unemployment falling by 54,600.

The Halifax Building Society, Britain's largest mortgage lender with 1.8 million borrowers, announced that it would raise its loan rate today by about 0.3 percentage points. The rise will be followed by other lenders. Page 1

Rebels prepare Euro-sceptic manifesto

Hopes of an early reconciliation between John Major and the Tory Euro-rebels suffered a setback with a rebellion on fishing rights and the disclosure that the rebels are to issue their own hardline Euro-sceptic manifesto. Pages 1, 10

Sheep protest fails

Police in riot gear brushed aside 500 protesters during an early morning operation to escort lorries containing sheep to the docks at Brightlingsea, Essex. Page 1

CSA reforms

Ministers are to announce far-reaching reforms of the Child Support Agency. Page 4

Foreign law

Proposals for legal reforms that would allow restrictive foreign laws to be applied in English courts have been put forward by the Government. Page 5

Forest campaign

A campaign to save Madagascan forests from a British mining scheme was launched by Sir David Attenborough. Page 7

Lobby appeal

Politicians should be allowed to work for parliamentary lobby organisations, said Dame Angela Rumbold. Page 8

Mistress wins court battle over grave

A dead man's mistress won her battle to be allowed to share his grave when she dies. But the man's family vowed to fight on and move his body to another plot, despite a judge's plea for compromise. Judge Alan Taylor granted Jean Cooper, who spent weekdays with her lover Ken Dunn, exclusive rights to the grave as she had paid for the funeral. Page 3

Cost of theft

One hundred and twenty pounds was added to the annual shopping bill of a typical household by the £2.15 billion cost of shoplifting, robbery and burglary. Page 9

Berlusconi threat

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, chaired his first Cabinet meeting but Silvio Berlusconi, his predecessor, threatened to topple the Government. Page 11

Balladur stands

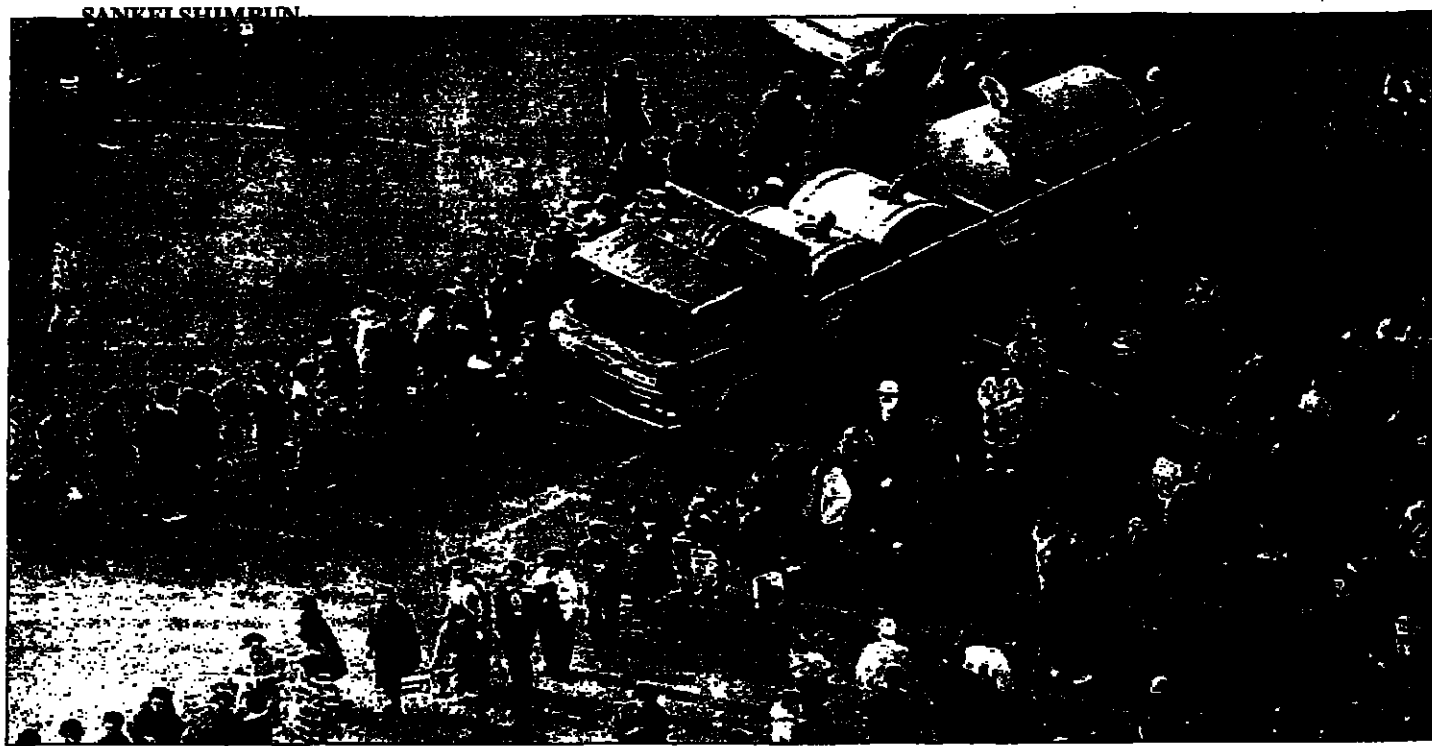
Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, will stand for the presidency. Page 12

Yeltsin accuses

President Yeltsin appeared to rule out a compromise with General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen rebel leader, whom he accused of genocide. Page 13

Political pay deal

Singapore is to link the pay of its top politicians to that of the highest-paid executives. Page 14



People queue for water in a school playground in Kobe yesterday after 140,000 were made homeless by the earthquake. Pages 1, 15

BUSINESS

The Archers: Dr Mary Archer is to step down as a director of Anglia, which was at the centre of an insider dealing share dealing inquiry last summer. Lord Archer bought shares days before a bid was announced. Page 25

Christmas gloom: Kingfisher did badly at Christmas and the company said that it may have to make exceptional provisions of up to £100 million. Page 25

On top: Up to 1,000 jobs will be created by First Leisure, the bingo halls and discos business best known as owner of the Blackpool Tower. Page 26

Rail sale: British Rail is planning to raise up to £2 billion through the sale of 60 businesses during the next 15 months. Pages 25, 32

Markets: The FT-SE 100 closed 0.5 up at 3,054.9 with turnover surging to 732 million. The pound rose 0.5 cents to \$1.5709, and 0.5 pence to DM2.4033. The sterling index rose 0.3 points to 79.6. Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: Shaun Udal became the fourth England player to have his tour of Australia curtailed by injury. He is flying home after tearing a muscle in his side. Pages 42, 48

Golf: Nick Price, the world's No 1 golfer, leads the entry for the Dubai Desert Classic, the first tournament in this season's European Tour. Page 46

Racing: Richard Dunwoody, the champion National Hunt jockey, was banned for 30 days for intentional interference in a race at Uttoxeter 12 days ago. Page 48

Tennis: Dally Randriantefy, 17, of Madagascar, stole the show on the third day of the Australian Open by reaching the third round of the women's singles. Page 46

Cruising for blood

Cruise undergoes a radical change of image for this week's film, *Interview with the Vampire*. Page 37

Ever the rebel: Age has not diminished the radical fervour of Pierre Boulez. He leads the London Symphony Orchestra in a series of 20th-century concertos. Page 39

Benedict Nightingale: "Are we too inclined to think of Strindberg as a bug-eyed misanthrope with no hint of humour?" Page 37

Dutch treat: The "The Age of Elegance" may change opinions about 18th-century Dutch art. Page 38

BOOKS

Anthony Powell: Hugh Thomas on "the most ambitious English novelist of the 20th century". Page 40

Do it yourself: What to do when your book is rejected? Follow John de Falbe. Page 40

Military history: Stella Tillyard on the Peninsula War: Richard Hough on kamikazes and U-boats. Page 41

Dr Ann Robinson

The head of the policy unit of the Institute of Directors talks to Julia Llewellyn Smith. Page 16

Europe on 4: "The BBC's caving-in to the protests against Anderson Country was long overdue," says Brenda Maddox. Page 16

Cutting edge: As surgeons become more ambitious, the chances of some improve. Dr James Le Fanu on heroic surgery. Page 17

Rugby union: Dougie Morgan, the Scotland coach, is to step down after the World Cup this summer, citing pressures on and off the field as the reason for his departure. Page 42

THE PAPER

Save our piers: Owners of the much loved Victorian relics are putting together bids for National Lottery money. Page 23

Insurance blues: Why getting cover for your skiing holiday is more difficult than ever. Page 22

Preview: Chilling statistics about the health of British men. *The Pulse* (Channel 4, 8.30pm) Review: Matthew Bond finds allegations that consultants are short-changing the NHS one-sided. Page 47

A rail lead

If they can exploit new freedoms and assets, then, as John Major hopes, railways may no longer be a music-hall joke. Page 19

Law from abroad

The Private International Law Bill is a significant threat to freedom of speech and the freedom of the press in this country. Page 19

Multi-media pontiff

In the revolution in communications the Pope is the very model of a modern communicator. Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

When we saw Kobe burning, we were seeing the world's bank burn. When we turn up for a loan, the money may not be there. Page 18

JANET DALEY

I would not want to be a member of any club which could not see when I was sending it up. Page 18

Lord Kagan, creator of the Gannex reindeer: Mary Countess of Pembroke and Montgomery, widow of the 16th Earl. Page 21

Plus XII and the Jews

Page 19

THE PAPERS

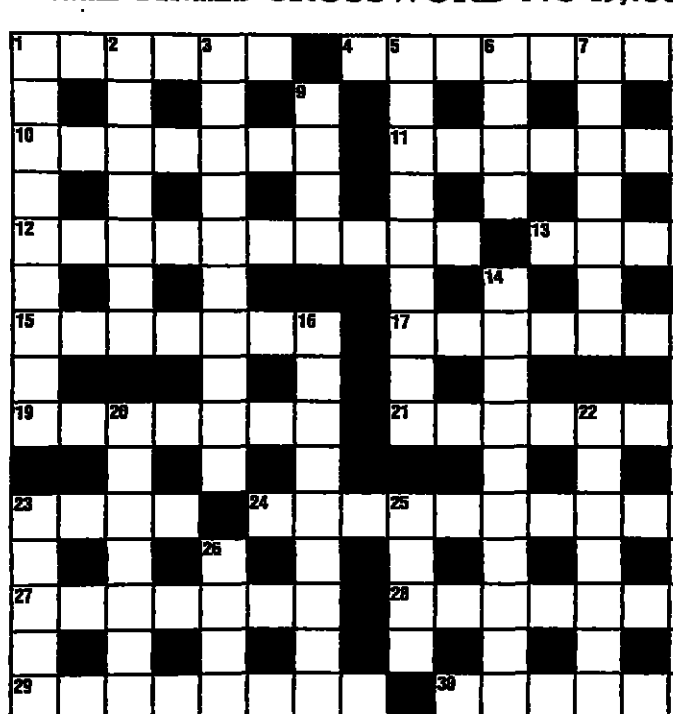
The scenes from Kobe must strike fear throughout California. It is time for US and Japanese experts to co-operate — Los Angeles Times. There is a real danger of another major war erupting in the Balkans. The last thing anyone needs is another toothless UN resolution — The Washington Post

THE TIMES CROSSWORD CHAMPIONSHIP 1995 QUALIFYING PUZZLE

I enclose cheque/PO for £5, my entry fee for the 1995 Times Crossword Championship, with stamped and addressed envelope (9" x 4"). (No fee payable if bona-fide full-time student).

NAME (please print) _____
ADDRESS _____
VENUE _____

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,756



- ACROSS**
- Private aspiration of newly-ordained priest (6)
 - University people accepting cut in scales (8)
 - Knock the Left in sympathy (7)
 - Stomach trouble — bad sign (7)
 - In the main he strives to come up with something of value (5-5)
 - Spot an animal seldom seen (4)
 - Issues Oriental blends (7)
 - Bag for adjustment of rent, and scuff afterwards (7)
 - Little page wanting second dish of food (7)
 - Plough to time (7)
 - A flier took the plunge in America (4)
 - It's wrong to decline current acknowledgements of indebtedness (10)
- DOWN**
- A man will take a single cocktail (7)
 - An artist wanted to secure a boat (7)
 - The lowest class may well find the boards accommodating always (8)
 - A tale that results in a member getting a tip (6)
 - Dump old car after argument (9)
 - Succeed as agent with network (7)
 - A wasteful individual — a dreadful prig of late (10)
 - Humiliation for a capsize sailor the crew set about (9)
 - The man who makes his appearance with day's end (4)
 - Calvin down and make up (7)
 - Divine taste, say (5)
 - A housewife needing some private tuition (4)
 - A stony dependant (10)
 - Seizing teeth on edge (9)
 - To walk around unquestioned is much appreciated (9)
 - A poem about hundreds being in conflict (7)
 - A messenger or porter enveloping mail (7)
 - The author of "Maud's Dilemma" (5)
 - Goes round for drinks (4)
 - A row — it upset the queen (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,755

ACROSS
1. PLEASURE
4. LUKED
7. GAVE
10. SHAMBLED
13. TIT
16. EARTHQUAKE
19. PROTECTOR
22. AILEEN
25. GREENE
28. TALISMAN
31. SNAKE
34. HITMAN
37. ETERNITY
40. I AM
43. POLYMATHEMATIC

DOWN
2. ARI
3. LUKED
5. GAVE
6. SHAMBLED
8. TIT
9. EARTHQUAKE
11. PROTECTOR
12. AILEEN
14. GREENE
15. TALISMAN
17. SNAKE
18. HITMAN
20. ETERNITY
21. I AM
23. POLYMATHEMATIC

Today we publish the qualifying puzzle for the Times Crossword Championship 1995.

Competition rules
Competitors may qualify by correctly solving and submitting this puzzle. They should complete the puzzle and entry form and post it with entry fee of £5 and stamped and addressed envelope by first class mail to Times Crossword Championship (to whom cheques should be made out), 13 Church Lane, Ripon, N Yorks, HG4 2ES, so that the entry is postmarked not later than January 27. The solution will be published on January 30, and all competitors will be informed of the result not later than February 10, and whether they will be required to attempt the eliminator puzzle mentioned below.

Regional finals will be one-day (four puzzle) events as follows: York, Viking Hotel (capacity 200 competitors), March 19; Glasgow, Stakis Grosvenor (150), April 9; Bristol, Hilton Hotel (200), May 28; Birmingham, Hyatt Hotel (180), June 18; London A and B, Hyatt Carlton Tower (200), July 12 and 23; National Final, Hyatt Carlton Tower, London, Oct 1.

If the all-correct entries for any venue exceed the accommodation available, competitors will be required to attempt an eliminator puzzle which will be published (if it is needed) on Thursday, February 23. Competitors are warned that this will be a more than usually difficult puzzle but are reminded that incomplete (or only partly correct) solutions may well qualify, since only the least successful entries will be eliminated. Competitors at a regional final may qualify for the National Final in the following way. The regional winner will qualify plus one additional competitor for every 60 competitors over the first 60; thus from 61-120 competitors two will qualify for the final, from 121-180 three will qualify, and so on. The qualifiers from the six regional finals will attend the National Final at the Hyatt Carlton Tower, London on Sunday, October 1. In the event of any dispute the decision of the Crossword Editor of The Times and the Times Newspapers Ltd may not compete.

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will start bright with a touch of early frost. There will be a few showers on exposed western and southern coasts, dying out as cloud thickens from southwest. Rain will reach southwestern counties by the middle of the day, spreading north and east. The rain will be heavy at times, with snow over higher ground. Clearer, showery weather will follow later. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers, then a drier spell before snow and rain spread from south. It will be windy again.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England: bright and dry at first, rain later. Wind swinging southeast and increasing fresh to strong. Max 9C (48F).

Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England,

Wales: dry at first, rain for a time, becoming clearer. Wind southeasterly strong to gale, becoming fresh southwesterly. Max 9C (48F).

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: rain spreading from south, with snow over higher ground. Wind southeasterly fresh to strong. Max 7C (45F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mainly dry, cloudier later with rain. Wind southeasterly fresh to strong. Max 5C (41F).

Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: showers at first, a dry spell, then rain from south with snow over higher ground. Wind southeast to east, fresh to strong. Max 5C (41F).

Outlook: unsettled with showers or longer spells of rain, sleet or snow.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm	6 pm to midnight	midnight to 5 am	5 am to 10 am	10 am to 5 pm	5 pm to midnight	midnight to 5 am	5 am to 10 am	10 am to 5 pm	5 pm to midnight
Aberdeen	0.5	0.2	7	46	1	0.2	10	50	1
Anglesey	0.5	0.2	7	46	1	0.2	10	50	1
Armagh	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Ashford	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Belfast	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Birmingham	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Bognor	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Bournemouth	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Buxton	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Cardiff	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Carlisle	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Colwyn Bay	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Croft	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Dorchester	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Edinburgh	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Exeter	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Falmouth	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Gloucester	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Guernsey	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Hastings	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Hemel Hempstead	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Hove	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Hull	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Humberside	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Leamington	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Leicester	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Leeds	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0
Liverpool	0.1	0.1	5	41	0	0.1	9	48	0

These are Tuesday's figures

ABROAD

Algeria	13.55	Cairo	10.50	Malta	14.57	Rome	10.50
Alexandria	13.55	Dubai	10.50	Moscow	13.55	S. Paulo	10.50
Amman	13.55	Frankfurt	10.50	Munich	13.55	Tokyo	10.50
Athens	13.55	Geneva	10.50	Nairobi	13.55	Washington	10.50
Bahamas	13.55	Helsinki	10.50	Paris	13.55	Wellington	10.50
Barcelona	13.55	Hong Kong	10.50	Seoul	13.55	Yokohama	10.50
Berlin	13.55	Jakarta	10.50	Singapore	13.55		
Bombay	13.55	Jeddah	10.50	Taipei	13.55		
Buenos Aires	13.55	Kuala Lumpur	10.50	Tel Aviv	13.55		
Calcutta	13.55	London	10.50	Toronto	13.55		
Cardiff	13.55	Los Angeles	10.50	Winnipeg	13.55		
Chennai	13.55	Manila	10.50				
Colombo	13.55	Mexico City	10.50				
		Montreal	10.50				
		Mumbai	10.50				
		Nairobi	10.50				
		Paris	10.50				
		Seoul	10.50				
		Singapore	10.50				
		Taipei	10.50				
		Tel Aviv	10.50				
		Toronto	10.50				
		Winnipeg	10.50				
		Yokohama	10.50				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadwatchers

Area within M25: 721

Area between M25 and M40: 722

Area between M40 and M1: 723

Area between M1 and M6: 724

Area between M6 and M25: 725

Area between M25 and M40: 726

Area between M40 and M1: 727

Area between M1 and M6: 728

Area between M6 and M25: 729

Area between M25 and M40: 730

Area between M40 and M1: 731

Area between M1 and M6: 732

Area between M6 and M25: 733

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Area between M1 and M6: 780

Area between M6 and M25: 781

Area between M25 and M40: 782

Area between M40 and M1: 783

Area between M1 and M6: 784

Area between M6 and M25: 78



ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Why the Bank was right to put the brakes on



ARTS 37-39

Interview with the Vampire: fangs, but no thanks



SPORT 42-48

Junior comes of age in Australian Open

A CLASSIC OF WAR REVISITED
Books 40, 41

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 19 1995

Mary Archer to quit board of Anglia Television



Dr Mary Archer with Lord Archer: cleared by inquiry

By MELVIN MARCUS
CITY EDITOR

MARY ARCHER, wife of Jeffrey Archer, the multi-millionaire novelist, will shortly resign as a non-executive director of Anglia Television, the company in which Lord Archer, the controversial share dealings caused a political storm on both sides of the House.

Dr Archer, 50, has decided to 'retire' from Anglia Television after the company's next board meeting, which is scheduled for mid-February. The departure of Dr Archer, the only woman on Anglia Television's board, will mark the end of an eight-year boardroom stint. Her final year proved highly embarrassing as a result of Lord Archer's share dealings on behalf of his associate, Brook-

Saib, a Kurdish businessman. Purchases of shares in Anglia, a matter of days before M&L, the media combine, launched a £300 million agreed takeover bid, yielded Mr Saib a profit of close on £30,000. Dr Archer maintained throughout the saga that she did not inform Lord Archer of the pending takeover bid for Anglia. Lord Archer, for his part, has insisted he did not benefit from the transactions.

In response to inquiries by *The Times*, a spokesman for Anglia Television said: "Early in December, Dr Mary Archer advised David McCall, the chairman of Anglia Television, that she wished to retire from Anglia after the February board meeting, by which time she would have served eight years as a non-executive director."

The share purchases in Anglia,

carried out on Lord Archer's instructions, took place in mid-January of last year. Subsequent revelations that directors of Anglia had been warned, in September 1992, that neither they nor their spouses should deal in the company's shares during the January to mid-March "close period" served to heighten Dr Archer's embarrassment.

In the event, the Stock Exchange drew a veil over the affair last September when it announced that it planned to take no further action. After receiving the Department of Trade and Industry's report on the Archer/Saib share dealings, the Stock Exchange declared that it was satisfied that "on the basis of information to date, there was no breach of its listing rules by Anglia or its directors". Speculation, shortly before the Stock Exchange's findings, that Dr

Archer might leave the board of Anglia last summer, proved unfounded. She is reputed to have given certain "assurances" to the board which were "accepted".

Dr Archer is a former member of the Council of Lloyd's, and remained chairman of Line Street's Hardship Committee until the end of last year when the unit was superseded by the Financial Recovery Department. Her only remaining connection with Lloyd's is as a "name".

News of the DTI investigation into Lord Archer's share dealings in Anglia was originally disclosed by *The Times* last July. A few weeks later Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, let it be known that he had decided to "take no further action against any of the parties concerned in the investigation".

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3054.9	(+0.5)
Yield	4.22%	
FT-SE All share	1513.85	(-0.02)
Nikkei	18223.31	(-18.07)
New York		
Dow Jones	3911.48	(-19.19)
S&P Composite	488.89	(-1.25)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	9.87%	(9.87%)
Yield	7.77%	(7.77%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6.75%	(6.75%)
Libor 3m	10.1%	(10.1%)

STERLING

New York	\$ 1.5705	(1.5685)
London		
\$	1.5701	(1.5681)
DM	2.4037	(2.3952)
FF	3.3210	(3.3200)
SP	2.0240	(2.0187)
Yen	156.23	(155.13)
£ index	73.6	(73.3)

US \$ to £	1.5705	(1.5685)
£ to US \$	0.6368	(0.6370)

US \$ to DM	1.5705	(1.5685)
DM to US \$	0.6368	(0.6370)

US \$ to FF	1.5705	(1.5685)
FF to US \$	0.6368	(0.6370)

US \$ to SP	1.5705	(1.5685)
SP to US \$	0.6368	(0.6370)

US \$ to Yen	1.5705	(1.5685)
Yen to US \$	0.6368	(0.6370)

US \$ to £ index	1.5705	(1.5685)
£ index to US \$	0.6368	(0.6370)

US \$ to Tokyo close	1.5705	(1.5685)
Tokyo close	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to North Sea oil	1.5705	(1.5685)
North Sea oil	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to Brent 15-day (Apr)	1.5705	(1.5685)
Brent 15-day (Apr)	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to Gold	1.5705	(1.5685)
Gold	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to London close	1.5705	(1.5685)
London close	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to denotes midday trading price	1.5705	(1.5685)
denotes midday trading price	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to Growth slows	1.5705	(1.5685)
Growth slows	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to Exciting Volvo	1.5705	(1.5685)
Exciting Volvo	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to Transfer of the first 20	1.5705	(1.5685)
Transfer of the first 20	1.5705	(1.5685)

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companies is expected by the	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to end of this financial year, in	1.5705	(1.5685)
end of this financial year, in	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to April. Bids for the remainder	1.5705	(1.5685)
April. Bids for the remainder	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to will be processed through the	1.5705	(1.5685)
will be processed through the	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to summer and autumn.	1.5705	(1.5685)
summer and autumn.	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to Leading article, page 19	1.5705	(1.5685)
Leading article, page 19	1.5705	(1.5685)

US \$ to BR contracts, page 32	1.5705	(1.5685)
BR contracts, page 32	1.5705	(1.5685)

Kingfisher dives after poor trading

By SARAH BAGNALL

AN ABYSMAL Christmas at Comet and Woolworths forced Kingfisher, the retailing group that also encompasses Superdrug, Darty and B&Q, to issue a profits warning yesterday.

The share price tumbled 19p to 4.02p - wiping £127 million from its stock market valuation - as analysts downgraded their pre-exceptional profit forecasts by up to £40 million to about £280 million. This follows a round of cuts earlier in the year.

Kingfisher also said that remedial action to restore fortunes of the two businesses may result in an exceptional provision. The City has per-

ceived a possible £100 million charge against profits for the full year to January 31.

Sir Geoff Mulcahy, chairman, said the group's performance was "unsatisfactory. We have got two problem areas, Woolworths and Comet, but the rest of the group's businesses are doing well."

The group achieved a 4.1 per cent rise in sales in the 23 weeks to January 7, but a breakdown between the operations revealed the extent of the problems at Woolworths and Comet.

The worst performance was at Comet, where like-for-like sales slumped 10.6 per cent, and the group gave warning that the electrical retail chain would make a small loss for the full year. Last year the chain contributed £16 million to group profits.

Kingfisher blamed the drop in sales on the highly competitive trading environment, but analysts were quick to point out that Dixons managed a 5 per cent lift in underlying sales over broadly the same period.

One analyst said the performance reflected "a lack of investment that is now coming home to roost." Another said that Comet was twice the sole player in the out-of-town market and, therefore, should be ahead of the game rather than lagging the pack.

John Richards, an analyst at NatWest, said part of any provision was expected to be to cover a very substantial rationalisation and reorganisation at Comet.

The City expects significant write downs of fixtures and fittings at both Comet and Woolworths. "Like-for-like

sales at Woolworths rose by a less than expected 1.9 per cent. Nigel Whitaker, corporate affairs director, said Wool-

worths makes all its profits at Christmas, but that trading over the festive season was poor. Sales of lower margin goods fared well, but in sharp contrast was higher margin products, the prices of which had to be cut. Woolworths also suffered from distribution problems during the third quarter, which hit sales as products were slow to get on to shelves. As a result, the group expects Woolworths to contribute about £50 million to full-year profits, compared with £75 million last time.

The disappointing performances by Comet and Woolworths overshadowed creditable performances by B&Q, Darty and Superdrug. Like-for-like sales rose 1.8 per cent at B&Q, 3.4 per cent at Darty and were flat at Superdrug.

Hamleys soars: In contrast Hamleys, the toy retailer, reported a 17 per cent leap in sales in December and said its flagship store in Regent Street had its best day of trading ever on Thursday-December 22. Margins held up throughout the period.

Like-for-like sales at its three Hamleys stores - Regent Street, Covent Garden and Heathrow - rose 10.1 per cent in the five months to December 24. The House of Toys concessions, all but one of which are located in House of Fraser stores, all made a positive contribution. Total group turnover leapt 30.4 per cent. The shares rose 4p to 4.02p.

Times, page 28

Mortgage interest rates set to rise

By ROBERT MILLER AND RACHEL KELLY

THE housing market received a double blow yesterday when the Halifax Building Society announced that monthly mortgage payments will rise and a new index revealed that the cost of buying a home will jump by 14 per cent this year.

The Halifax, which will reveal the details of its mortgage rate rise today, is expected to lift its standard variable loan rate from 8.1 per cent to 8.4 per cent.

The TSB Affordability index predicts that base rates will rise to 7 per cent from the present 6.25 per cent by the end of the year triggering further mortgage payment increases.

According to the index the rise in the cost of buying a house in 1995 will be three times greater than last year and five times the forecast rate of inflation.

The bank said: "For the first time in three years, a mortgage will use up a third of a typical adult's take-home pay. Out of every £100 they take home, typical buyers will spend £32.80 on a mortgage compared with £28.80 now."

Government policies were blamed for most of the increase in the costs with higher taxes and interest rates accounting for 80 per cent of the rise. Pay rises of about 4 per cent will be more than wiped out by the cut in mortgage interest tax relief.

Commenting on the Halifax mortgage rate rise John Stewart, who compiled the index, said: "This unfortunately is the last thing the housing market needs at the moment."

Legal challenge on compensation

By ROBERT MILLER

COMPENSATION payments to investors who were misled by financial advisers could be delayed if independent financial advisers succeed in obtaining a judicial review of guidelines laid down by the Securities and Investments Board.

The IFA Association, a trade body that represents independent financial advisers, has joined forces with LIBM, a firm of professional indemnity insurers, to challenge the SIB guidelines on the grounds that it has exceeded its powers set out in the Financial Services Act.

The case is due to be lodged in the High Court on January 24.

Garry Heath, chief executive of the IFA Association, said yesterday: "The SIB has taken on more and more powers that the Act does not give them. Our members are

being asked to write to all their clients about past business they have done where they advised someone to transfer or opt out of an existing or former occupational pension scheme. We are not denying that there has been bad advice given in some cases. But no other profession would be expected to write to clients effectively inviting them to sue them for compensation. This is just arrogance on the part of the regulators. We also believe it is a breach of civil law."

The SIB said: "We are waiting to receive the writ. When we do we will consult our lawyers."

The SIB, which is the main City watchdog, has delegated the Personal Investment Authority to establish a special Pensions Unit to help with reviewing pension transfer and opt-out cases.



Some like it hot: Lili Koi steps out for Andrea Wilkin Haute Couture, winner of the NextWear Export Award for Small Business at the British Apparel Export Awards. Ms Wilkin, twice bridal designer of the year, was one of eight winners at the awards

Talks on mini-Airbus development group

Bae's triple alliance may have £300m price

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE may be preparing to write off up to £300 million as the price for resolving the future of its regional aircraft business.

The provisions would enable Bae to halt production of its J61 turboprop and form a new mini-Airbus aircraft development and marketing company with Aerospatiale of France and Alenia of Italy.

The new alliance, one third owned by each partner, would procure aircraft from Avions de Transport Régional, an Aerospatiale/Alenia 50/50 joint venture, and from Bae's Jetstream and Avro subsidiaries.

Discussions aimed at reaching agreement continued in Paris yesterday between divisional directors of the three would-be partners. Ministers in charge of Bae's state-owned French and Italian partners are believed to have given outline consent.

However, Chris Avery, analyst at Paribas Capital Markets, said that if the deal was completed it would take £150 million a year of losses out of

the Bae balance sheet and "change perceptions of British Aerospace".

The revelation in *The Times* that talks are at an advanced stage provoked deep concern at other European aerospace companies which fear they might be excluded from the formation of the world's biggest regional aircraft company.

Rokker, the Dutch jet builder, and Daimler-Benz, its German parent, had tried to force Bae to take a junior role in a German-led consortium to develop the next generation of regional jets. But a new French/Italian/British alliance would enable Bae to further reinforce its links with Aerospatiale, and strengthen its jealously-guarded role as Europe's leading designer and manufacturer of aircraft wings.

If completed, the new marketing alliance, dubbed "Mini-bus", will offer a comprehensive range of aircraft. The J31 and J41 will fit with the ATR-42 and ATR-72 to offer a range of turboprops

with 19 to 74 seats. Avro's regional jets will be offered for longer routes, with four models ranging from 70 to 115 seats.

Creation of the new company would enable both ATR and Bae to realise significant savings in marketing and product support costs. Bae's losses on regional aircraft are thought to be running at up to £40m a year, mostly at Jetstream. ATR is also losing money, although because it is a Groupement d'Intérêt Économique, rather than a company, its figures are not published.

However, the impact on jobs at Jetstream's Prestwick plant in Ayrshire is likely to be small. Production of the 64-seat J61, a development of the Hawker-Siddeley 748, is already negligible, as is output of the 19-seat J31. But the J41 has a strong order book, and Bae has just installed jigs there to manufacture wings for the Avro RJ series, transferring to Prestwick work previously carried out by Textron in the United States.

BR out to raise £2bn in sell-offs

By ROSS TIEMAN

BRITISH RAIL is planning to raise up to £2 billion through the sale of 60 businesses during the next 15 months.

The disposals, embracing all rolling stock, plus maintenance and support, are timed for completion by April 1996, to coincide with the planned privatisation of Railtrack.

By the next election, the Government aims to net £4 billion to £5 billion from rail privatisation, depending upon how much it can raise from Railtrack. It also aims to franchise services carrying more than half of all passengers, so that, by April next year, the only substantial part of the railway remaining in public ownership will be about a dozen passenger train operating companies.

After two years of preparatory work, the British Rail Vendor unit is now poised to begin marketing the entire network of support services for Britain's trains.

Transfer of the first 20 companies is expected by the end of this financial year, in April. Bids for the remainder will be processed through the summer and autumn.

Leading article, page 19
BR contracts, page 32

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□ British Aerospace seeks safety in a crowd □ Prosperity returns to the Province □ Time for market-makers to show their hand

Wings over Europe

THE European aerospace industry is holding its breath for the most important reorganisation since the formation of Airbus Industrie 24 years ago.

After two years of discussions among the leading players, three companies appear to have found the courage to tackle the overcapacity problem by merging their marketing, sales and support activities. This will come as little surprise to readers of *The Times*. On January 6, we wrote: "British Aerospace... has made good progress in its discussions with Aérospatiale and Alenia. They now appear ready to go ahead with a tripartite deal."

The logic of creating a "Minibus" — an Airbus-style operation to build a cost-effective range of European regional aircraft — is overwhelming. At present there are five regional aircraft manufacturers in Europe, producing two jet ranges and 11 different turboprops between them. The key markets of America and Europe are starting to rally after a long, long recession. But capacity remains perhaps three times the level of demand. All the companies are losing money.

The initial objective of any deal between BAE and Avions de Transport Régional, the SOGRO group, is to share the 50/50 economic shared by Aérospatiale

and Alenia, will be to reduce marketing and product support costs. This will cut losses and give them a big advantage over fragmented rivals.

Initially, aircraft can be procured from their present manufacturers. The J41, ATR-42, ATR-72 and RJ series have ten or 15 years of life yet. But as confidence grows, the consortium could seek further partners — perhaps in South-East Asia. The next generation of fast turboprops would be designed in Toulouse, where final assembly and flight testing would occur. Aerostructures would be purchased from the partners. BAE would extend its role as Europe's wing-maker, and more.

This would be good news for the United Kingdom aerospace industry. Better a one-third stake in the world's leading regional aircraft company, with a workflow to match, than a pair of wholly owned subsidiaries too small to renew their model range. Although design would be co-ordinated in France, BAE's 1,500 designers would contribute

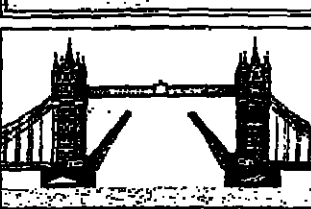
their share, by computer, from the UK. And because Britain is now probably the cheapest place in Europe to build aero-structures, the volume of work here should continue to rise.

For Daimler-Benz's Deutsche Aerospace, and its Dutch subsidiary Fokker, this is a nightmare scenario. But Dasa is reaping the fruits of its bullying. Within Airbus, Dasa has been too tough in its demands for workshare, and lackadaisical in cutting costs. For BAE and Aérospatiale, Dasa's demand to lead a European regional jet consolidation appears to have been the final straw.

Ulster's tempting glimpse of peace

LOOKING for an emerging market with no currency risk? Perhaps you should look no further than across the Irish Sea. With only a ceasefire under its belt so far, Northern Ireland is already starting to earn peace dividends. Surveys conducted

PENNINGTON



last month for the British Chambers of Commerce show that the province is beginning to hum, bringing many benefits and a few problems.

Growth in sales for the domestic market is above the national average and manufacturers' export orders and sales are more buoyant than in any other part of the UK. A balance of almost four out of five firms reported a rise in export orders over three months. Clearly, much of that will have been cross-border business within the island of Ireland, the instant beneficiary of reduced tension. Rebuilding tourism will take longer, hence in part the sluggish growth of service ex-

ports. But that should eventually reinforce manufacturing.

Investment is picking up too. A balance of more than 40 per cent of manufacturers are revising their investment plans upwards, the most in any region. Not surprisingly, confidence is improving fastest there too.

The province certainly needs it. The cycle of depression and deliberate destruction has left unemployment rates the highest in the kingdom. Employment growth was sluggish in the last quarter of 1994, according to the BCC survey, but more firms expect to take on more people in the coming months than anywhere else. Immediately, however, the deprivations of depression and disillusion are apparent. Despite those dole queues, Ulster employers are already facing the worst problems of skill shortages, especially among manual workers. If training can boost growth anywhere, it is here. The need is urgent.

Such an instant boost is bound to affect the politics of the province too. Pressure for a full

settlement, to regain prosperity, will be intense. Unionists who fear a sell-out will not, perhaps, be using just a turn of phrase.

Taking stock of the rulebook

AFTER much deliberation, the Stock Exchange has admitted what most of us had gathered all along. The contracts for differences, written by SBC for Trafalgar House to offset the costs of its £1.2 billion bid for Northern Electric do not breach the exchange's rules, because the rulebook was drawn up without an inkling of such sophisticated financial instruments.

Now the exchange must begin the harder task of deciding whether its rulebook should be amended to cover similar transactions in future. The rulebook is woefully inadequate in the current evolution of the financial markets. There are no rules governing the use of derivatives by market makers an omission which enables a dealer to trade in equity

instruments at his leisure regardless of the effect it has on an underlying share price.

But the Exchange should not confine its consultations to the whys and wherefores of derivatives, which are only a means to an end. They should examine the status of the City's market makers. At Big Bang, market makers were envisaged as share traders, providing the market with liquidity, and were granted immunity from normal stake disclosure rules. But some market makers, including SBC, take huge positions on their market making books in the hope of making a profitable turn for their firm. This is more akin to strategic investment than market trading. Such investors have outgrown their entitlement to anonymity.

Bingo bonanza

ON THE DAY that the Government announces a further fall in the length of dole queues, First Leisure provides another glimpse into the real world behind the figures. Each new bingo hall apparently needs as many as 80 to 100 staff to operate it. Forget all those hamburger flippers, welcome to the new tribe of bingo callers — surely the ultimate in part-time and non-productive employment.

Blenheim Group plunges on third profits warning

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BLENHIM GROUP, the exhibitions organiser and a former darling of the stock market, shocked the City for the third time in recent years with a profits warning, sparking an immediate plunge in the company's share price.

A total of £4 million in restructuring costs to pay for a painful retrenchment at Blenheim would impact on the financial figures for 1994, even though some of the cost-cutting would fall into the current year, the company said.

Profits would therefore be "slightly below" the range of market expectations, the company added in a formal Stock

Exchange statement. The shares fell 45p to 189p but recovered to end down 37p at 197p.

Some market optimists were looking for a pre-tax figure as high as £35 million for the current year, but after the announcement most estimates were scaled back to £30 million.

The 1994 figures are also expected to contain a compensation payment of about £325,000 for Philip Soar, the former chief executive who quit amid some bitterness last spring five months after he had been demoted to the level of director.

The formal statement also

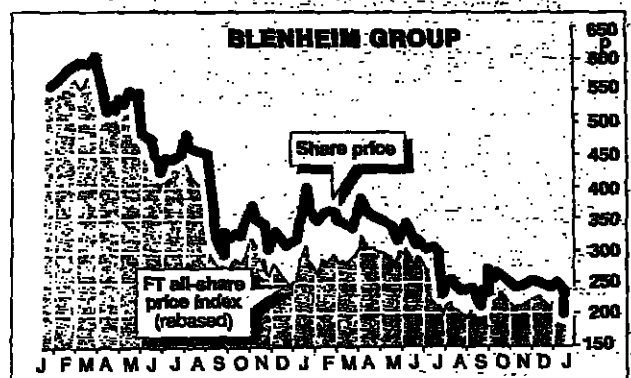
gave warning of the effects of continuing difficult trading in France and increased competition being faced by two computer exhibitions in the United States.

"These factors may well remain difficult in 1995," the company warned its shareholders, with no expectation of any significant improvement this year. The benefits of the restructuring would therefore only accrue from 1996 onwards.

Christopher Crowcroft, the finance director, said: "We were hoping the markets would turn by autumn 1995 in France, but we now think it's going to be a 1996 recovery."

Blenheim is increasingly unwilling to compete in any area of exhibitions where it is compelled to take second place to a competitor in terms of size, such as the British giftware market. As a result, the company is expected to pull out of as many as ten of its 150 events during the current year.

"Almost by definition, the shows that are in that position are not large profit contributors," added Mr Crowcroft.



Temps, page 28

CU cuts price of French group

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COMMERCIAL UNION, the UK composite insurer, has knocked about £40 million off the purchase price for the insurance operations of Groupe Victoire, the French insurer bought from Compagnie de Suez in August.

The price now falls from £12.3 billion to £11.9 billion. Peter Foster, finance director, said the reduction reflected a change in Groupe Victoire's net asset value. "This was principally due to movements

in investment values between December 31, 1993, and June 30, 1994," said Mr Foster. World bond and equity markets were in turmoil during this period. Another factor was Groupe Victoire's results, which are not disclosed.

CU has already paid £11.1 billion — £10.5 billion in cash and the balance in shares — the remaining £794 million will be paid in cash before July 1. Suez held all but 0.54 per cent of Groupe Victoire's equity

and CU will now make a public offer, based on the final consideration, to acquire it.

La Réunion Française has recommended that shareholders accept a bid for control of the group by UAP, the French insurer, which currently has a 33.52 per cent stake. UAP has agreed to buy shares held by Abellie Assurances and Hannover Ruedversicherung at £130 a share which will give a majority stake and control of voting rights.

Exchange drops Trafalgar probe

BY ERIC REGULY



Morris shares rose

THE London Stock Exchange yesterday said it had dropped its investigation into the financial dealings surrounding Trafalgar House's bid for Northern Electric.

The announcement came as Swiss Bank Corporation, Trafalgar's adviser, said its market-makers had raised their stake in Northern, whose chairman is David Morris, to 41 per cent from 35 per cent. Their stake in Northern and other electricity companies was one area probed by the

exchange. It said it was "satisfied that there are no reasonable grounds for action within its own area of regulatory responsibility".

While the exchange is closing the file on the bid for Northern, it said it would continue to examine whether rules needed to be introduced governing the use of derivatives in the equity markets, requiring, say, additional disclosures in the public interest. The exchange investigated whether the "Chinese wall" that separates corporate finance and money-market activities was breached at Swiss Bank. Questions about the Chinese wall were raised when Swiss Bank's market-makers were forced to reveal through Section 212 notices that they had built up a small stake in Northern and an 8 per cent stake in Yorkshire Electricity. Traders said the Yorkshire stake was unusually high for a market-maker.

Meanwhile, Swiss Bank's corporate finance department had entered into "contracts for differences" with Trafalgar.

The contracts, a form of derivative, allowed Trafalgar to benefit from rises in Northern and other power companies' share price. They earned Trafalgar about £8 million.

Swiss Bank has refused to comment on the Chinese wall other than to say it was not breached. Brian Keelan, director of corporate finance, said he was not aware that the market-makers had bought electricity company shares and had no idea of their intentions. Rodolfo Bogli, Swiss Bank's chief executive, said the bank would be "delighted to continue contributing to the refinement of the UK regulatory framework" through continued discussion with the exchange.

The Labour Party still wants the bid to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. "These share dealings leave a bad taste in the mouth, and if there are no powers at present to control them, they should be looked at again," said Brian Wilson, Labour's trade spokesman.

Copyright expands as profits fall

BY MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

COPYRIGHT Promotions Group, the cartoon character licensing group demerged from Mosaic Investments, is to acquire the remaining 50 per cent of ELG, its European licensing joint venture, from its German partner, Merchandising Munchen.

Copyright will pay a nominal sum and will assume a 6.11 million guilder (£2.35 million) loan from Merchandising Munchen to ELG, whose head office will relocate from Amsterdam to London.

Richard Culley, managing director of Copyright, and Philip Whitecross, finance director, reported a fall in group profits to £169,000 before tax from £305,000 in the half-year to the end of October. Earnings were 1.12p a share (2.01p). The company will pay its first dividend in August.



Stepping out: Richard Culley, left, with Philip Whitecross and "Bart Simpson"

Stanley looks for more good fortune

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

STANLEY Leisure, the betting shops and casinos owner, is hoping for good fortune this year from new betting laws after a 42 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £7.64 million in the six months to October 30.

The rise in profits was helped by a £600,000 reduction in interest charges after a £21 million rights issue at the beginning of last year. There was also a £700,000 contribution from acquisitions. The rest came from organic growth.

Leonard Steinberg, chairman, said that the firm was looking for further acquisitions in both its racing and casinos divisions. Mr Steinberg said that the deregulation Bill currently going through Parliament, which will allow betting shops to serve food and drink and to advertise more openly, should help profits in the next financial year. The firm will also benefit from a

contribution from Sunday racing, with racing on 11 Sundays scheduled in the first half of the financial year, and from an extended programme of evening racing. Mr Steinberg said it would be more costly for betting shops to open on Sundays, "but we believe that there will be a reasonable response".

Margins were squeezed in the casinos division as customers had a run of good luck, but Mr Steinberg said that, since the end of the first half, margins had started to pick up. Overall, attendance was up 3 per cent and income was higher.

Stanley Leisure's turnover was up £23 million at £154 million, a rise of 17.6 per cent. Earnings per share were 17.2 pence higher, at 9.53p, and the interim has been increased by 17 per cent, to 2p, to be paid on February 24. Net assets per share were 9.7 pence higher, at 237p.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Warburg shares jump as City scents new suitor

SPECULATIVE buying sent shares of SG Warburg, the merchant bank, racing away again, just weeks after breaking off merger talks with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank. Warburg finished the day 41p higher at 737p, with Mercury Asset Management, its publicly quoted offshoot, 52p dearer at 748p as talk in the Square Mile suggested a new suitor may be waiting in the wings.

Brokers said early European buying had pointed the finger at the German Dresdner Bank. But by late afternoon JP Morgan, another US investment bank, was being tipped as the most likely predator. In fact, JP Morgan's name was originally in the frame before Morgan Stanley made its move.

Warburg knows it is up against it after failing to get together with Morgan Stanley, and has been shedding jobs and overheads to become leaner. But the view in the marketplace suggests that time may be running out. Elsewhere, the threat of higher interest rates came back to halt investors, with share prices fluctuating in narrow limits in the wake of overnight losses on Wall Street. The inflation numbers weighed heavily on sentiment and fuelled fears that another rise in interest rates may be on the cards. The problem was compounded by a move by the Halifax Building Society to increase its mortgage rate.

The FT-SE 100 index ended just 0.5 points up at 3,054.9, with turnover surging to 732 million as Goldman Sachs executed the first part of a £800 million program trade. Shares of Kingfisher tumbled 19p to 402p after the company confirmed the City's worst fears and issued a profits warning. Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, the chairman, says that poor performances from both its Woolies and Comet operations will result in "unsatisfactory" final results. Sales during the 23 weeks to January 7, rose only 4.1 per cent. Like-for-like sales at B&Q, Darty and Woolworth showed small improvements, but were offset by a near-11 per cent fall at Comet, which is expected to produce a small loss for the year.

Brokers began downgrading their full-year estimates, which had previously been pitched at £290-£335



British Steel advanced after hinting at June price rises

million. All of them agree that tough action is needed, with losses anticipated at both Woolworth and Comet chains. Pamure Gordon has slashed its profit forecast from £335 million to £280 million.

Meanwhile, Ladbroke has confirmed that Rank Organisation, up 6p at 399p, is one of a number of parties interested in buying 12 vacant sites. But

ber soared 17 per cent, with margins holding. Tesco continued to draw strength from this week's upbeat trading statement, with the shares adding a further 5p at 246p.

British Steel advanced 4p to 155p after painting an encouraging picture of trading prospects at a dinner with brokers earlier this week. The

Tarmac marked time at 113p as Hoare Govett, the broker, cut its pre-tax profit forecast for the current year from £160 million to £142 million. But it remains positive, short term, about the shares, claiming there is still scope for improvement. It is urging clients to switch from George Wimpey, also unchanged at 124p.

Ladbroke would not confirm City speculation that it was in talks with J Sainsbury about the sale of its 240-strong Texts DIY chain. Sainsbury shares were unchanged at 42p.

By contrast Hamleys, the toy shop chain, rose 4p to 191p on a positive trading statement. On December 22 its Regent Street flagship store enjoyed its best day's trading ever. Overall, sales in Decem-

group is apparently ready to implement a new series of price rises some time in June. On world markets there is concern that Japanese steel output may be affected by the Osaka earthquake.

Barrett Developments, the housebuilder, stood out with a jump of 7p to 172p after its meeting with Hoare Govett, the broker, which is positive about the shares. NatWest

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Securities is believed to have increased its pre-tax profits forecast for the current year by £5 million to £56 million, while Cazenove is also said to have raised its numbers.

The water companies were a hot spot after BZW reduced its recommendation on the sector from buy to a hold. There were losses for North West, 9p to 513p, Northumbrian, 12p to 700p, Severn Trent, 8p to 512p, South West, 8p to 481p, Welsh, 7p to 610p, and Yorkshire, 9p to 505p.

A profits warning sent shares of former high-flyer Blenheim Exhibitions tumbling 35p to 199p. It said profits for the year just ended were likely to fall short of expectations that ranged from £3.5 million to £35 million. In the current year there was little prospect of a significant improvement.

BSkyB firmed 2p, and is now back to its original offer price of 250p. Tadpole Technology, the portable computer supplier, recovered some of its poise with a 38p rally in the price to 246p. The price plunged more than £1 on Tuesday after news of increased losses in the first quarter.

Heavy turnover was recorded in penny stock Black & Edgington as the price firmed 4p to 22p as more than 30 million shares changed hands. Last week the share price more than doubled after Ian Gowrie-Smith, the Medeva chief, and Nigel Wray, the financier, between them acquired 30 per cent of the company.

GIIT-EDGED: Gilt was sent reeling by the worse than expected inflation numbers, with falls stretching to £2. But resilient performances from both German bunds and US Treasury bonds paved the way for a rally. On the futures market the March series of the Long Gilt finished a couple of ticks lower at £107 1/4 as a total of 56,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 finished just a tick easier at £103 3/4, while at the shorter end Treasury 9 1/2 per cent 1999 shaded 1/4 at £102 1/4.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was down 19.18 points at 3,911.48, at midday after renewed uncertainty over the Federal Reserve's stance on interest rates triggered a bout of profit-taking.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3,911.48 (-19.18)
S&P Composite 468.53 (-1.22)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19,223.31 (-18.01)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 7630.20 (-23.69)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 414.45 (-0.54)

Sydney:
ASX 100 1888.6 (-0.5)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3,078.85 (-5.02)

Singapore:
Straits 2,025.56 (-2.48)

Brussels:
General 711.43 (-5.07)

Paris:
CAC-40 1,860.27 (+3.33)

Zurich:
SIX 641.10 (+0.30)

London:
FT 30 3,038.1 (-4.9)

FT 100 3,049.9 (+0.5)

FTSE Mid 250 3,465.0 (-1.8)

FTSE Europe 100 1,247.01 (-0.4)

FT A All-Share 1,513.85 (-0.02)

FT Non Financials 1,645.84 (-1.4)

FT Gold Mining 1,815.43 (+1.1)

FT Food & Drink 1,003.55 (+0.01)

FT Govt Sec 90.91 (+0.86)

Barracks 2,014

SEAL Volume 147.43 (+0.16)

USM (Dow Jones) 1,570 (+0.028)

German Mark 2.404 (+0.028)

Exchange Index 92.94 (+0.3)

Bank of England official rate (4p)

LECU 1.2663

ESDR 1.0675

RPI 146.0 Dec (2.9%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mgmt Inv (100) 99 ...

BSkyB 256 +2

British Assets Gth 63 +1

Caledonian Media Writs 6 +1

Clydeport 166 -1

First Russ Firms (10) 585 ...

Growth Micro Vts (500) 51 +2

Hill Hire 102 ...

Investors Capital 88 +1

Invests Cap Inc An 38 +1

Kiln Capital (100) 100 ...

Lazard Birla Ida 53 +1

Lazard Birla Ida Ws 31 +1

MICE Group (3) 31 ...

Maths Lloyds Trst (100) 82 -3

Pentec 105 ...

RM (175) 209 +2

Telewest Comm (182) 180 +5

Wellington Under (100) 102 ...

Woodchester Uts 125 ...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Hewlett n/p (68) 22 -2

Powell Duffryn n/p (440) 63 +1

Trio n/p (25) ...

Verity n/p (74) ...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISKS:

Kleinwort Benson 576p (+28p)

Standard Chart 289p (+10p)

SG Warburg 737p (+41p)

Black 650p (+25p)

Black 650p (+25p)

Chromalox 113p (+11p)

Wellcome 675p (+16p)

Argyll 280p (+9p)

FALLS:

Photo-Me 234p (-28p)

Denka Bus Systems 374p (-12p)

Kingfisher 402p (-19p)

Glenage 420p (-8p)

Laird 326p (-10p)

Blenheim Group 199p (-5p)

Phoneline 194p (-9p)

Scott TV 434p (-11p)

Boots 487p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Explosion of the Comet

POOR old Kingfisher cannot flap its wings fast enough to keep still in the gale blowing down the high street. Woolworths had a grim half year and saw its Christmas toy sales snatched by the privatizers at Argos, who were able to offer bigger discounts a minute's walk down the road at their catalogue showrooms. Strong sales of confectionery and videos were not enough to bridge the gap and the chain's margins have been squeezed.

If Woolworths is suffering a dose of flu, Comet's ailments look like pneumonia. The electrical retailer is being hammered by the electricity companies' showrooms which offer easy credit while rival Curry is nibbling from the other side. Comet has also failed to keep up with the home computer market, having made a quick profit from computer games, the retailer pulled out when the games market

crashed, leaving rivals free to lure customers into their own outlets. Kingfisher's response is to spend money, repositioning Woolworth and Comet with new products and refits.

A package of provisions, possibly totalling £100 million, has been waiting a long time to see the market. Geoffrey Mulcahy's blueprint take to the skies and the delay in installing Epos technology is a symptom of a weak strategy. Woolworths offers little to drag in the punters and cannot make price work to its advantage. Investors would gain little from a breakup; Comet and Woolworths could well have a negative value, given their leasehold commitments, and isolated store closures will do little to cut costs. What Kingfisher needs now is a retailing strategy based on more than a cheap and cheerful Woolworths. That has been done before.

accounting change to take opening costs on the chin, an adjustment which cut the previous year's pre-tax figure by £11 million.

The only division to reduce profits last year was sports, dominated by bowling, where like-for-like sales fell by 10 per cent last year. This fall in profits was despite a £1.3 million boost from the entry into health and fitness. Sales are now 7 per cent up after new pricing initiatives, and spend per head should improve.

First Leisure for this year should report about £42 million pre-tax, a 12 per cent rise. The shares are therefore selling on 15 times earnings and represent a firm long-term hold.

First Leisure's future internal earnings growth will depend on customer numbers rather than spend per head or chunky price increases. Such growth could be slow, hence the weighty expansion programme unveiled yesterday.

First Leisure has always had a reputation for prudent management and cautious growth, so it is little surprise that it has refused to become involved in any block purchase of superannuated DIY sheds from Texas Homecare.

The new openings of bingo halls and discotheques are likely to be slanted towards the second half of the current year, throwing most of the benefits into 1995-96 even if the spending will come out of this year's budget. Also acting as a drag on near-term profits is the

Photo-Me NOTHING seems to have gone right for Photo-Me international since it bought KIS a year ago. Profitability is not the French photo booth manufacturer's strong point, and the group's decision to merge-account the new business does not obscure the fact that its earnings per share are now substantially lower than before the deal.

The restated interim figures show a 3 per cent rise in earnings to 8.6p, but the company's original earnings in 1993 were 10.7p, so the real fall has been almost a fifth. Photo-Me remains keen on KIS's technology, but its new PhotoVision machines are taking longer to perfect than originally hoped. The three-month shutdown of the Grenoble factory cost dear.

While Photo-Me promises a rise in earnings and a higher final dividend this year, it also talks ominously about competition. Until now, Photo-Me has had a

large part of the lucrative photo booth market to itself. Now competitors are encroaching on its patch with increasing vigour, something which prompted the company to hedge its forecast of an improved second half with caveats.

Yesterday's 11 per cent fall in Photo-Me's shares was the market's belated recognition that the group will not rebuild its earnings base overnight. The additional revenue from KIS's new generation of video technology machines should begin to have some impact on the company's figures next year, provided that competition does not worsen. But the shares, on a prospective p/e ratio in the high teens, look expensive, even after yesterday's fall.

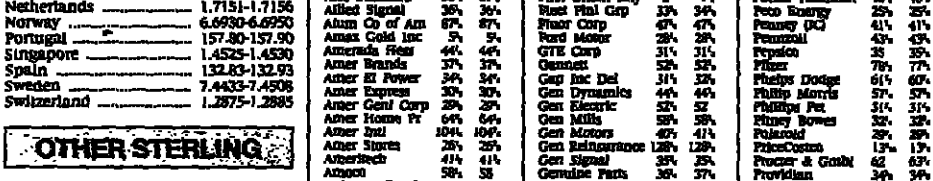
Blenheim FORGET the French exhibitions market, the cost of job cuts, or whatever. Blenheim's problem henceforth is

going to be a serious lack of stock market credibility. No matter that the company insists that yesterday's profits warning is down largely to more prudent housekeeping being enforced by Staffan Svanby, the managing director, the market has been wrong-footed once again and is not going to forgive easily.

At the time of the last warning, in September, Blenheim claimed to be keen to improve its relationship with the City, a relationship that is not going to be helped by yesterday's near-20 per cent shares plunge. For this reason Mr Svanby has donned sackcloth and ashes and stressed that no benefits can be expected until 1996 at the earliest. At their current level, the shares trade on less than 13 times the 1994 earnings expected to be announced in the spring, but any bounce back will not take place overnight. The shares remain only for the brave.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

LEISURELY PROGRESS



First Leisure

FT All-Share Index (rebased)

FMAMJJASONDJFMAMJJASONDJ

Source: DataStream

200 300 400 500

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THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

No more cracks, please

RELATIONS between Trafalgar House and Tarmac Professional Services, the newly formed group that includes TBV Consult and TBV Schol, could become a mine field after the latest edition of *On Balance*, Tarmac's glossy house magazine. Under the headline "Ticking Time Bomb" the magazine says: "Highway bridges across the UK are cracking up as a combination of water and de-icing salts penetrates the hearts of the structures." Illustrating the article is a fine shot of Trafalgar House hard at work building the Dartford bridge.

Rights? Wrong

CONCENTRATING one's international investment banking in London is one thing, but Deutsche Bank could yesterday have hardly been more dismissive of the City rumour that it was planning a rights issue to finance the purchase of SG Warburg. "Complete nonsense" was how one bank official in Frankfurt put it. "We are not at all interested in Warburg, and have said so before."

Nostalgic fair

BURTONWOOD, Britain's biggest US air base during the Second World War, is to be virtually recolonised by Americans on April 23-27, when George Pataki, the new Governor of New York and Christine Todd Whitman, Governor of New Jersey, will accompany representatives of 25 US states to what is billed as one of Britain's largest trade fairs. The ambitious economic development unit of Warrington, Borough Council, organisers of the annual event in the fast-growing Cheshire town, expect around 80 American firms, besides corporate participants from nine European countries. The Duke of Westminster, one of Britain's biggest landowners, will also be doing his bit to foster regional business. The economic hands across-the-sea jamboree is timed to fall before the fiftieth anniversary of VE Day, when many Americans will doubtless remember the former air base with some nostalgia. Planes no longer fly out of Burtonwood, but Manchester International airport is only 15 minutes drive away.



Kissinger calls

OVER the Pennines, the Yorkshire Business Conference, to be held at Harwood House, near Leeds, on May 19, is not going to be easily outshone. The organisers have hired Henry Kissinger, the former American Secretary of State, to deliver the main address. Other speakers at the star-studded gathering, sponsored by leading Yorkshire and City firms, include Helen Sharman, Britain's first lady in space.

FLOWER of Scotland, an air 1 associate with Caledonian national pride at rugby internationals, has turned up on the taped telephone music of the German Ministry of Finance. Have the devolutionists reached Bonn?

COLIN NARBROUGH

It must be said: Mr George has got things right, so far

While exports are booming, the Governor's tight monetary stance looks like working

Perhaps Eddie George was right after all. Hard as it is to concede that the Governor of the Bank of England could ever be right about anything, the surge in economic activity suggested by the latest batch of statistics does hold out this astounding possibility, almost for the first time in my professional lifetime. Having vigorously attacked the two increases in interest rates imposed by Mr George in the autumn, claiming that the economic recovery was still insufficiently strong to justify tighter money, it may now be time to eat humble pie.

There are, of course, still serious uncertainties about the momentum of recovery and many reasons to suspect that yesterday's surprisingly strong statistics on both inflation and employment will turn out to be blips. Retail prices, for example, have probably been overstated because the collection date on December 13 came just before the introduction of pre-Christmas discounts. And the retail sales figures, due out this morning, may well be flattered by the way that many department stores advanced their January stock-clearing into the pre-Christmas period.

Nevertheless, it has to be conceded that, looking back at the Bank's policy judgments since he took over 18 months ago, the Governor has been proved consistently right and his critics (myself included) have turned out to be wrong. Back in the autumn of 1993, Mr George was, in retrospect, right to oppose a sharper cut in interest rates than the half point he agreed just before the Budget. He was right again last February, when Kenneth Clarke pressed for a further half point off base rates and he forced the Chancellor to settle on an insignificant quarter point. And he was right to demand a monetary tightening in September, when Britain's growth numbers were revised sharply upwards and the trend in unemployment dramatically improved.

Had Mr George been any less tough in these monetary decisions, it is quite possible that the British economy would by now have started overheating. If base rates had been cut all the way to 5 per cent in 1993 and then kept there, unemployment would by now be falling so quickly as to put upward pressure on wages, the housing market would be prospering and inflation would be escalating as manufacturers struggled to meet the unusual combination of booming demand both at home and abroad.

The fact is that the growth of around 4 per cent recorded since late 1993 and the fall in unemployment of almost one million, was about as strong a

performance as the British economy could safely manage, even in the recovery phase after a deep recession. In retrospect, therefore, we can all thank the Bank for having ignored the siren voices that called for lower interest rates during the past 18 months. The interesting question now is whether the Bank and the Treasury will continue to calibrate their policy so well in the year ahead. Another increase in interest rates now looks extremely likely after the next monetary meeting on February 3. This further tightening could be just what is needed to prevent an inflationary boom. Alternatively, it could strengthen sterling, damage investment and undermine the prospects for non-inflationary growth. In trying to assess whether economic policy this year is likely to remain as successful as it has been recently, it is worth asking why the Bank has acted the way it has.

It is a moot point whether Mr George truly understood what was going on in the economy as long ago as the autumn of 1993. More probably, he was just following his ultra-conservative instincts. As a colleague of his once put it, with only a touch of exaggeration: "Eddie has never supported a rate cut since he joined the Bank — and that was in 1962." There is no evidence that the Bank's economists expected the unprecedented export surge that has been entirely responsible for the economy's acceleration in the face of last year's tax rises. Although the Bank does not disclose its detailed economic

analysis, its quarterly inflation reports over the past year have shown views quite close to those of the Treasury, which publishes its forecasts with each Budget. It is now instructive to look back at these forecasts for the light they shed on the quality of official policy judgments. Going back to November 1993, the official expectations were clear. Consumers, who had powered the economy in the first year of recovery, were expected to continue spending reasonably freely despite Mr Clarke's tax increases, if necessary from savings. The Bank seemed, if anything, to be more sanguine about consumer spending than the Treasury, frequently drawing attention to the high growth of money supply figures, which have often been closely correlated with activity in the high streets. Both the Bank and the Treasury also felt there were prospects of a pick-up in industrial investment, as the rebound from recession turned into longer term, sustainable recovery. What none of the officials predicted was the sudden surge in exports from the end of 1993.

In the event, the 1993 official forecasts were, either right or over-optimistic, in every major indicator, except the two that really turned out to matter: exports and total GDP. The Treasury forecast that growth in consumer spending would accelerate from 2 per cent in 1993 to 2.25 per cent in 1994. Instead, according to the latest estimates from Goldman Sachs, it slowed slightly, from

a revised 2.6 per cent to 2.5 per cent. The Treasury said that exports would rise from 0.5 per cent in 1993 to 3 per cent in 1994. In fact it rose by less, from 0.3 to 2.7 per cent. The Treasury predicted a sharp acceleration in government consumption, from zero in 1993 to 1 per cent in 1994. Actually, government spending increased only marginally, from 0.9 to 1.3 per cent.

On exports, by contrast, the Treasury's forecast was much too tame, predicting a small increase from 4 per cent in 1993 to 5.75 per cent in 1994. Now, Goldman Sachs expects a jump from 3.1 per cent in 1993 to 8.4 per cent in 1994. That leap in exports, combined with a big shortfall in import growth, more than accounts for the Treasury's underestimate of GDP growth in 1994. The same almost certainly goes for the Bank.

So, while Mr George was right to urge caution on interest rates throughout the last 18 months, he was right for the wrong reasons. Of course, it is better to be right for the wrong reasons, than the other way round. But the Governor's instinctive bias in favour of ever-tighter monetary policy, which has proved so serendipitous in a period of booming exports, could become dangerous if the unexpected stimulus from world trade began to falter.

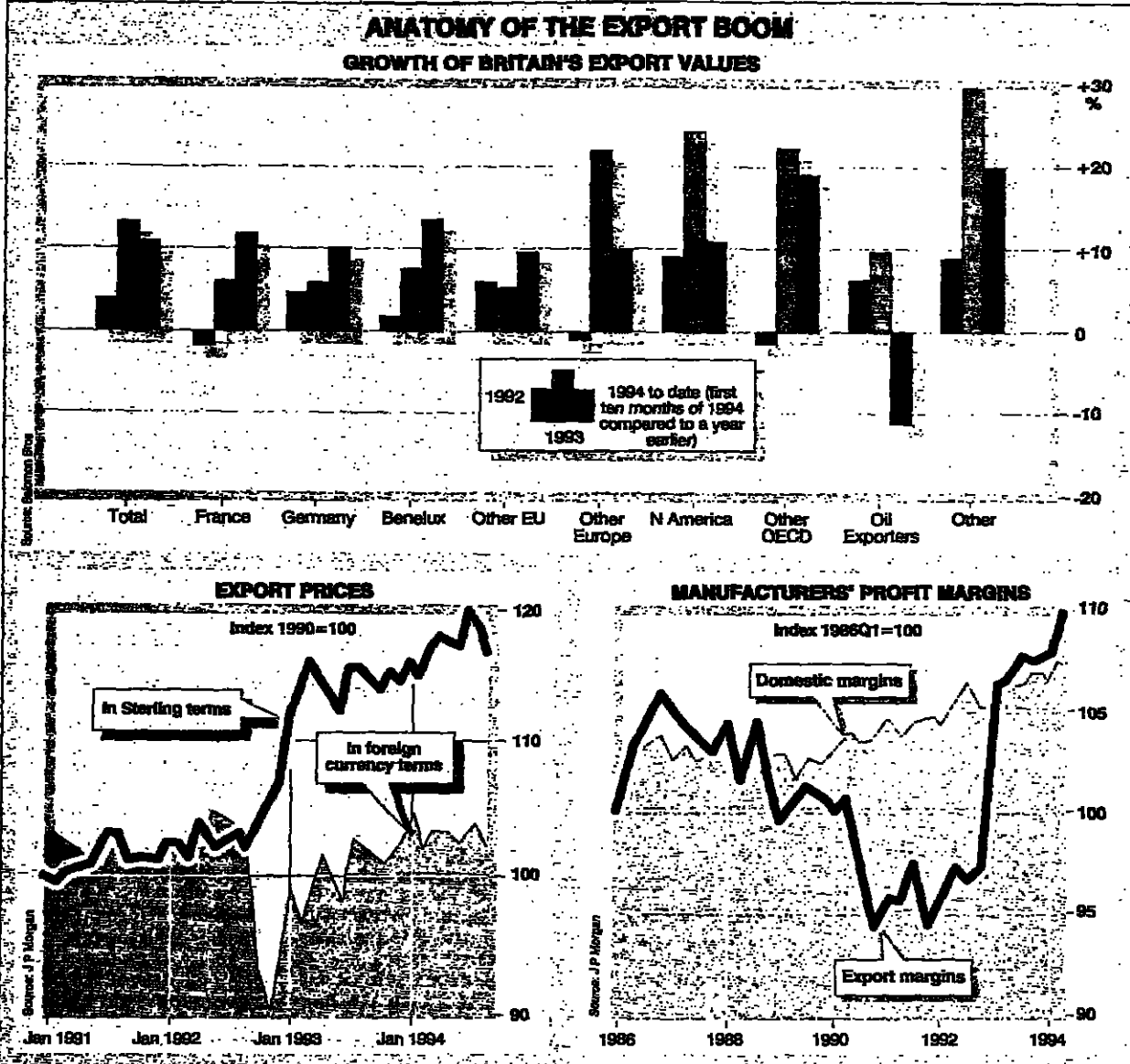
The fact is that consumers have not shrugged off the impact of tax increases; if anything, they have tightened their belts more than expected. And industrialists have not, so far, responded to the recovery by spending more on investment. Government spending,

meanwhile, is set to reduce its contribution to the economy substantially this year. The prospects for the economy in 1995 will therefore depend critically on exports continuing to grow rapidly.

If they do, Mr George will be right to carry on with his policy of cautious monetary tightening, probably taking base rates to around 7.5 per cent by the end of the year. But if export growth begins to flag, either because exporters exhaust the competitive benefits of a weak exchange rate, or because world growth moderates, the British economy will prove very vulnerable.

My guess is that consumers will prove even more cautious in 1995 than they were last year. Against the background of ever-growing doubts about job security, pensions entitlements and house values, savings rates could actually rise instead of falling, as virtually all forecasters expect. Investment, too, could prove weaker than expected; if interest rates continue to rise, further weakness in housing, retailing and services could easily offset all the new export-oriented factories being built.

Provided exports continue to boom, this rebalancing of Britain's economic structure will be healthy — and the new jobs created in the export sector will boost workers' incomes and feed into domestic demand. But the Chancellor had better keep a sharp eye on the trade figures every time Mr George demands another increase in interest rates.



Getting the lowdown on inflation

Janet Bush argues the case for moving the headline figure out of the limelight

The Central Statistical Office's hot line gets more calls from members of the public about the retail prices index than any other economic statistic and for good reason.

The all-items index — headline inflation in newspaper headlines — is widely used to update pensions, benefits, wages, rents, electricity and gas prices and excise duties on tobacco, petrol and alcohol. An arcane announcement from the RPI advisory committee recently is, therefore, more than passing interest. The committee proposed changes in the components of the all-items index which, overall, appear to reduce the weight of mortgage rates but raise the impact of changing house prices.

It is likely that mortgage rates will go up again this week in response to December's base rate rise and further later in the year as the Bank of England pushes for more pre-emptive rate rises. It is also a good bet that house prices will remain subdued as consumer demand weakens under the weight of higher taxes and interest rates, as mortgage interest relief is cut and help to those on income support to pay their mortgages is curtailed. If this is right, the changes to the RPI, accepted by the Chancellor, should help to keep inflation low.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers in London, has lowered his forecast — made before yesterday's December inflation figures — for headline inflation at the end of the year to 3.1 per cent from 3.4 per cent because of this factor.

This is likely to have a knock-on effect on underlying inflation — the core measure targeted by the Government, which excludes mortgage interest payments — because wage deals and so forth would all turn that much lower. But there are other aspects to how the RPI is made up which many economists believe mean that inflation is currently lower than the official figures suggest. The Simon Briscoe, of SG Warburg, believes that the RPI overstates inflation by 2 per cent, on top of the 1-2 per cent that central bankers

assume to be price rises related to quality improvements. That would mean the RPI is now near to zero.

Mr Briscoe lists 20 ways the RPI may overstate inflation. One is that the index includes across-the-board price cuts but not the special offers common at supermarkets. It also excludes the richest 4 per cent of households, accounting for about 14 per cent of spending, and pensioners, who account for around 5 per cent. It does not monitor the prices of new cars, only the second-hand market: it is difficult to pick up different types of selling such as car boot sales and charity shops, where prices tend to be lower.

Despite the recent changes to the mortgage component of the RPI, there is still a problem for policy-makers. When mortgage payments go up — reflecting a tightening of monetary policy — inflation tends to go up, making a further tightening more likely. The same is true of indirect taxes. The Government has partly tackled the budget deficit by announcing increases in indirect taxes, all of which boost headline inflation. In this case, a prudent tightening of fiscal policy pushes

inflation up and increases the risk of a tightening in monetary policy too. The Bank of England is aware of this and has tried to push its RPI measure of inflation, which excludes both mortgages and indirect taxes and therefore gives a better underlying picture of inflationary trends.

Unfortunately, it is stuck with the Government's official inflation target which applies to RPIX — excluding mortgages but not indirect taxes. The RPI measure is still not officially published. This week, the Treasury and Civil Service select committee sensibly advised the Chancellor to publish RPIX, a move that is under consideration. But whatever the outcome, the fact remains that headline inflation remains a headache because of its use in wage bargaining and the rest.

The only real solution is for the Treasury and the Bank to use the various indices as no more than a guide and supplement that with common sense and judgment. Here's hoping.



Which inflation data is the issue for Kenneth Clarke

BUSINESS LETTERS

Tax and interest rises may explain holiday doldrums

From Mr J. C. Cook
Sir, Harvey Elliott's interesting article on the sudden downturn in holiday bookings ("Where have all the bookings gone?", January 12) can, I believe, be at least partially explained by the increases in interest rates and taxes, both direct and indirect, currently coming into operation. In my

The necessary will

From Mr Charles Cantoni
Sir, Mr Errol Nott (Letters, January 10) rightly calls for the regulation and control of willwriters. The obvious qualified professional is, of course, the solicitor and the general public will be aware that solicitors are regulated by the Law Society and are well trained and qualified to perform the task. The public also have the assurance that all solicitors are required to carry professional indemnity insurance. All too many people put aside the task of making a will. Understandably, many

do not wish to contemplate the necessity. For many individuals it is a rare, if not the only, occasion upon which they need consult a solicitor and many do not perhaps appreciate that the cost of an average will prepared by a professional will be £50 or £60. A small price to pay, one might think, for the assurance that one's affairs have been put in proper order by a person professionally qualified and regulated to prepare the document.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES CANTONI,
Tanner & Taylor,
149 Victoria Road,
Aldershot, Hampshire.

opinion, "gearing" is one of the more important words in the economic dictionary, not only for companies but also for individuals, and is very relevant to today's conditions. I suspect that there are many couples whose gross pay totals £3,000 per month, a net £2,000 after tax and National Insurance, with a further £1,000 of

committed outgoings (mortgage, insurance, utilities etc), leaving £1,000 per month spendable income. For many of these couples, taxes and mortgage interest could have increased by up to £80 per month, reducing "spendable" income by the same amount. To keep abreast of inflation at 3 per cent requires a 6 per cent increase in gross pay. Anything less, and you are worse off. In today's employment market, that level of increase is simply not credible, so marginal "spending" income has to be cut. The truth is that all governments and most individuals have a vested interest in a return to higher inflation to reduce their borrowings. The best "feel-good" factor is higher spendable income coupled with higher house prices where a 5 per cent increase can result in a 25 per cent increase in equity value. Yours faithfully,
J. C. COOK,
The Cottage,
Powder Mill Lane,
Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent.

Coal comfort

From Dr Paul H. Grayshan
Sir, I note (Business News, January 12) that the DTI is investing £4.1 million in the future of the coal industry.

This is surely something of a volte-face? The same DTI and Mr Heseltine have spent the past few years denying that the coal industry has a future — devastating the lives of tens of thousands of men and their families in the process.

Was your paragraph's disguise — "DTI funds gas research" — deliberate? It did actually refer to "high efficiency coal burning power stations". Aren't these also something which we had been told had no future?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL H. GRAYSHAN,
14, Well Garth Bank,
Bramley, Leeds.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Historical precedent for changing start of tax year

From Mr Ian McWilliam
Sir, You rightly (leading article, January 3) encourage us to start working for tax freedom for Great Britain suggesting April 1 as the best date. This means change, yet we are averse to change with excuses of extra effort and expense. Should we not work together to take the lead to achieve the best day for Europe?

We may have to prepare for single currency in 1997/99 — why not a common fiscal year? Historically we have been left behind in Europe. For example, we were nearly 200 years behind in changing from the

Julian Calendar (45 BC) to the Georgian Calendar (1582) only adopted in Great Britain in 1752. The error between the two calendars was now 11 days and was "caught up" by being removed from the calendar altogether: 2nd September was followed by 14 September. In order not to lose 11 days' tax revenue, the missing days were tacked on at the end, which meant moving the beginning of the legal year, March 25, to April 6 for income tax in 1842 — thus our present fiscal year start.

So we can change and can do it again, but this time can

we not be more business-like? Budget Day has been changed to November. We can, with computers, easily adjust to a new fiscal year and at the same time streamline our wasteful procedures which follow the Budget to the Finance Bill — 348 pages this time.

Why not a common fiscal year please? The advantages to inter-European business led by the City seem fairly obvious.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MCWILLIAM,
Roughm Farm,
Ravenglass,
Cumbria.

More flexible arbitration needed in the resolution of legal disputes

From the Secretary, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
Sir, The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators supports your leader, "Cost-Effective Justice" (The Times, January 6), when it says that "Ours is a legal system which is too court-centred."

What is required is the co-ordination of the currently

available means of dispute resolution through, it is suggested, a multi-door court system consisting of litigation, arbitration and mediation/conciliation.

This system should operate on a flexible basis in that disputes which enter one "door" and prove not to be suitable therein can be re-

ferred to the most appropriate "door" with a recommendation as to qualification for legal aid.

Yours faithfully,
K.R.K. HARDING,
Secretary,
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators,
24 Angel Gate,
City Road, EC1.

UK operators expect five to six million subscribers by 2000

City ready to receive cable

By ERIC REGULY

BELL Cablemedia's announcement that it will seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange marks a fundamental change in outlook for the fast-growing cable industry and its potential investors.

Bell, Britain's third largest cable company, floated on America's over-the-counter market last July. It had hoped to float in London as well, but Alan Bates, the chief executive, said: "The interest here was not very high, so we were not able to go to both markets at the same time. Now, there's much greater awareness."

What a difference a few months make. The cable industry, regarded as little more than a curiosity until a couple of years ago, is experiencing explosive growth. You need only look out of the window for confirmation. The 16 or so operators are tiling streets everywhere to lay their cable. Households, despite their rage over uprooted trees, are signing service contracts in droves. The Cable Communications Association said 900,000 homes are now connected to cable, up 57 per cent from the same time last year. The subscriber number is expected to reach five to six million within five years and total investment will reach about £10 billion.

Cable operators have also penetrated the telecommunications business, having installed about 750,000 cable phone lines. At current growth rates, as many as four million cable phone lines will be in place by the end of the decade. Analysts estimate that 30 per cent of their revenue already comes from phone-line rental charges. "Interest is soaring partly because of the growth of telephony," a spokesman for CCA said.

With numbers like these, it's not surprising that the industry is attracting the attention of City analysts and portfolio managers. James Dodd, of Kleinwort Benson Securities, said: "The cable industry will generate billions in revenues."

Sensing the interest, several cable companies have plans to float in London this year and



Alan Michels, left, TeleWest's chief executive, and Stephen Davidson, finance director, at last November's float

Mr Dodd thinks they may form a separate sub-index on the exchange.

TeleWest, one of the two largest cable companies, was the first off the mark with a joint London-US flotation in November. The issue of 210 million shares was three times oversubscribed. It remains the only cable company with a London listing (the other listed companies, Bell Cablemedia, Comcast and International CableTel, trade over-the-counter in the US only).

Bell Cablemedia, owned 14 per cent by Cable and Wireless, wants a London listing by the summer and is searching for an investment adviser. Mr Bates said he is

not sure whether an equity offering will accompany the listing: Bell raised \$500 million in equity and debt in the US in 1994 and may not need more capital this year.

General Cable, controlled by Générale des Eaux of France, is likely to take another shot at a London flotation this year.

Nynex CableComms, owned by the Nynex phone company of New York, is roughly the same size as TeleWest, and is expected to float in London as early as April. If it succeeds, others will be tempted to follow.

Some investors eyeing the Nynex flotation may be put off by the lacklustre performance

of the TeleWest shares. They have fallen to about 170p from their offer price of 182p. The explanations are varied. TeleWest had the misfortune of issuing its shares during a severe downturn in the US stock markets. It appears that institutions, taking advantage of the market fall, were able to satisfy all their demand in the first few hours, and volumes since have been thin.

TeleWest has also been quiet on the hard-news front in recent weeks. Interest may pick up later this month when it reports its operating statistics, followed by its first financial results as a traded company. It is also a strong contender for the Ulster fran-

chise, considered to be the last cable plum in the country. Mr Dodd is recommending the purchase of TeleWest shares.

The Office of Telecommunications has approved a model Consumer Code of Practice for cable companies. Written with the help of the Cable Communications Association, it sets service standards for subscribers, including the handling of bills, repairs, appointments and disconnections. The code will apply to cable phone services as well.

Anna Walker, deputy director-general of telecommunications, said: "Cable companies now have clear guidelines on the sort of information that customers can expect."

Century Inns to be valued at £60m

By MARTIN BARROW
CITY NEWS EDITOR

CENTURY INNS, one of Britain's largest independent public house operators, is expected to be valued at about £60 million when it comes to the stock market.

Proceeds from the placing and intermediaries offer will be used to repay £17 million of debt arising from acquisitions since 1991, when the company was established to take advantage of opportunities arising from the Beer Orders.

Century's initial purchase of 185 pubs from Bass was followed by further acquisitions from Bass, Grand Metropolitan, Ind Coope (Oxford and West) and Legendary Yorkshire Heroes. The company's pubs are concentrated in the North East and Yorkshire.

The company has long-term beer supply agreements with Bass, Courage, Scottish & Newcastle and Carlsberg-Tetley, which have been renegotiated on improved terms.

In the year to September 30, Century raised pre-tax profits 19 per cent to £5.6 million on turnover of £20.3 million, helped by a reduced interest charge after the repayment of debt from the company's cash flow. The estate of 264 freehold, 27 long-leasehold and four short-leasehold pubs was valued at £55 million at December 31, 1994.

Alain Arkley, chief executive, said the flotation would provide the financial flexibility to expand the estate to between 450 and 500 pubs. Fishers Group, the UK loss adjuster, unveiled plans for a stock market flotation within 12 months after the reverse takeover of Celtic Gold, a Dublin shell company.

The £11.95 million deal involves the issue of 81.3 million shares to the vendors, of which 29.4 million will be placed with institutions to raise £3.2 million. A one-for-five share placing and open offer by Celtic Gold at 11p a share will raise £523,000 of new funds.

Profits were £1.76 million before amortisation and tax in the year to March 31, 1994, on turnover of £12.1 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SelectTV hit by dip in programme delivery

A DRAMATIC dip in deliveries of finished programmes forced down first-half turnover at SelectTV, the independent production company responsible for the comedies *Lowejoy* and *Birds of a Feather*. But Allan McKeown, the chief executive, said results for the full year would reflect the "continuing success" of the production business and the higher number of deliveries in the second half.

But for a payment of £800,000 from Associated Newspapers in connection with SelectTV's withdrawal from a cable TV project in London, the company would have had to report a first-half pre-tax loss. In the event, the figure came in at £517,000 for the six months to September 30, against £614,000 last time. There is again no dividend because of the need to husband cash balances for expansion. Mr McKeown said the company's other cable TV plans were "close to fruition," with a new general entertainment cable-exclusive channel already put together and presented to cable operators. A number of them had said they intended to carry the new channel on their networks this year.

Digital turnaround

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT, the US computer maker, returned to a net profit of \$18.9 million in the second quarter after a loss of \$72.1 million a year earlier. This helped to cut first-half losses to \$111.6 million (\$26.3 million) or 91 cents a share. Accounting changes lifted results for the period by 45 cents a share, compared with a negative impact of 38 cents in the first half of 1993. Second-quarter revenues climbed to \$3.47 billion (\$3.25 billion), taking first-half revenues to \$6.6 billion.

Hammerson sale

HAMMERSON, the property investment company, will earn £61.8 million from the sale of Bow Valley Square in Calgary, Canada. The complex, built in the 1970s comprises 1.4 million sq ft of offices in four towers and 95,000 sq ft of retail space. Owners Realty Corporation is buying the property, which will yield 9.5 per cent on the investment. Hammerson said its strategy was to increase the retail content of its North American portfolio with the sale of offices.

Lookers lifts payout

LOOKERS, the motor group based in Manchester, has seen a small decline in orders for new cars from retail customers but says demand from corporate customers remains firm. The company, which has interests in agricultural machinery and caravan parks as well as auto distribution and maintenance, has raised the total dividend to 7.5p a share from 6.5p, with a 5.1p final, after returning record pre-tax profits of £7 million (£5.01 million) in the year to September 30.

Salvesen's German stake

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN has acquired from LEP Group a 40 per cent interest in Wohlfarth Group, a provider of logistics services in Germany. Salvesen's initial investment is DM5 million. The investment will be held through a holding company in which the management and employees of Wohlfarth will have a 20 per cent interest and Cadover Investments and associated funds 40 per cent. In 1993 Wohlfarth had pre-tax profits of £1.7 million on turnover of £85.6 million.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Role model for regulation

A General Accounting Council would solve the dual role problem, not preserve it, says John Moore

The publication last week of the report of the regulation review working party set up by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) will be of great interest to members of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (ACCA). The working party, chaired by Chris Swinson, an ICAEW council member, had been established to review the structure and working of regulation within the profession.

I very much welcome the review, particularly in the context of the current debate about the future organisation of the accountancy profession. It is particularly encouraging that the Swinson report clearly demonstrates a developing consensus about the best way to regulate accountants effectively and in the public interest.

would be replaced by a new scheme based on peer review. In coming to this conclusion, Swinson's team supports implicitly the rationale underlying the ACCA's proposal for creation of a General Accounting Council (GAC). It has also recognised the importance of a "user-friendly" approach (as practised by the ACCA) in relation to the monitoring of smaller practitioners.

It is therefore surprising that after giving specific consideration to the proposed GAC, the working party appears to have rejected it on the grounds that it "would combine regulatory and representative functions" and that "the inclusion of both functions within a single body would be a continuation of, rather than a solution to, the 'dual role' problem".

The "dual role" problem is, of course, one which is of concern to all professions, for one of their traditional characteristics has been their self-regulation. Increasingly, however, it is being asserted that a single body cannot represent simultaneously the interests and welfare of its members, and also control and regulate them sufficiently robustly. It is



John Moore hopes for eventual endorsement of a GAC

true that the GAC would not function purely as a regulatory body.

The rationale behind the proposal is to create an organisation which would deal with all the areas where the accountancy profession has a shared responsibility to the public,

and other issues where its representative bodies can usefully co-operate to the benefit of the accountancy profession as a whole. The GAC would, therefore, deal with matters such as oversight of regulation and standards, promotion of the standing of the profession

and relations with government on issues of common interest to the profession and accountancy bodies. It would not, however, involve itself in matters such as members' services, student recruitment or representation of sectoral interests. These would remain within the remit of the individual accountancy bodies.

So, in simple terms, the GAC would engage in work which has in the past been considered the function of a "representative" body. It would not be concerned with those activities of members and student support which sit most uneasily with the regulatory role.

Far from preserving the "dual role" problem, therefore, the GAC would solve it. The accountancy profession as a whole would remain self-regulating, but oversight of the regulatory function would be separate from the servicing of individual members and of sectional interests within the profession.

Last week, the council of the ICAEW decided not to endorse any of the six options identified by the Swinson Report, instead, to examine them all in greater detail and defer a decision until January 1996. We in ACCA hope that they will eventually recognise the potential of our GAC model.

John Moore is President of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

Sign that something has hit the mark

THERE are difficult times ahead for the English ICA. But there are distinct signs that it is regaining its grip on the issues that it faces. The first sign of this is the report on professional regulation which it has published under the guidance of Chris Swinson, the BDO Stoy Hayward partner noted for his forthright views and low tolerance of fools.

This remarkable document produces realistic analysis and commonsense solutions. That alone marks it out among English ICS council-inspired reports. But its reception by the council itself proved that it was the real thing. The council decided to set up another working party and delay any conclusions for at least a year — a sure sign that something has hit the mark. The majority of council members still given the impression that they are founding partners in the firm Judders. Differ. Delay & Co. The Swinson report gives them every chance to exhibit timidity in the face of change.

The dilemma which it seeks to resolve is well analysed. "There has been much complaint from members," the report said, "that increasing the institute's duties as the regulator imperils the institute's responsibility to act as a representative and support for its members."

"The external mirror image of this internal concern," the report went on to say, "is the often-heard complaint that the institute's dual roles of regulator and representative create conflict which undermines its effectiveness as a regulator." That is the whole problem in a nutshell.

The answer would be to follow the example of the Financial Reporting Council and the Accounting Standards Board and set up a body which would be independent of the profession but open to its input and expertise. And that is precisely what the report has suggested in its recommended "Scenario 3A". The institute's current responsibilities as regulator would be handed over to an independent body for all those cases where the public interest was involved. This would in effect mean the regulation of the large firms. There are 150 firms dealing with listed companies, but 85 per cent of that work is handled by only ten firms. And the smaller firms would be subject to an institute-run practice review scheme consisting of confidential reviews largely on a peer review basis. It is hoped that this would remove much of the current

animosity. As the report points out: "Such a scheme has been run for some years in Ireland without inciting the antagonism of its members."

After a doubting council was shunted into action by its office-holders a working party, again under Chris Swinson, is being set up to consider alternatives and sound out the various other interested parties, not least the Department of Trade and Industry. There was one brief and entertaining diversion. One member of the working party, the ever-bustling Douglas Lambias, recognised that the sector with the most doubts about this course of action were the small practitioners. Knowing that the way to swing small practitioners behind any issue is to suggest that the large firms oppose it, he then started phoning everyone to say that the large firms were against Scenario 3A. They weren't, of course, but it didn't half confuse a lot of people. The institute and the rest of the profession, also face a crunch date next

Tuesday (January 24). This is when the whole panoply of presidents and chief executives of all six of Britain's accounting bodies meet to give a decent burial to the ill-fated Bishop plans to seek a unified structure for the profession. Theoretically they are meeting to decide if there is a way forward. But they are all so enmeshed in distrust, and conflicting objectives that the likelihood of getting together en masse under any plan can be discounted.

What matters is where they go from here. The association of certified accountants are still keen on the idea of a general accounting council.

But the English ICA has reverted to its old policy of loathing anything the certified come up with. The Scots are keen on a policy of greater but arms length co-operation. But the key position is that of CIMA, the management accounting body. During the Bishop discussions, it secretly approached the English ICA to see if a merger of the two bodies would be possible. Nothing will be announced now. But after a decent interval following the burial of the Bishop proposals the idea will be put forward. But the problem would be that the English institute would find its small practitioners in upsurge, and there is no guarantee that the CIMA council would vote through such a proposal. The old days of mutual understanding have gone.



ROBERT BRUCE

Figures in painting

THE profession has never been terribly good at honouring its great and good with a likeness in oils to leave as a portrait for posterity. However, the unlikely quarter of the London School of Economics is setting this right. To celebrate its centenary, it has decided to commission paintings of its two most senior professors emeritus. In early July, a startled world will see the unveiling of portraits of Will Baxter and

Harold Edey. And then it will be up to posterity to judge their works.

Masters' platform

THIS possibility of the English ICA electing its first woman president came closer last week, with the official word that Sheila Masters, a KPMG partner, is standing for election as vice-president. In spite of her being a human dynamo, people wonder how

much time she could devote to the post. To judge by her manifesto, she is already running the Bank of England, the National Revenue, and the National Health Service. And the document doesn't disclose that she has recently reached the ethereal heights of the elite partnership board at KPMG. But never mind, she deserves to win. Anyone whose manifesto states "Elect me if you want a challenging time" has to be the one to go for.

Strong's move

YOU can't keep a good lady down. After her "early retirement" from the English ICA after years as the stalwart of the public relations department, Margaret Strong has popped up again. She started on Tuesday as senior administrator at the London Society of Chartered Accountants, an organisation which in recent years has been a bit of a thorn in the institute's side. She

China chair

THE indefatigable John Studdard is at it again. No longer cutting a swathe through Coopers & Lybrand in London, he is now chairman of Coopers in China. And he has just endowed the People's Republic's first-ever university chair in accounting and auditing. The lucky chap is Professor Er-Ying Lou in Shanghai.

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High Court date for Lloyd's case

Lloyd's of London's right to pursue thousands of names through the courts to recover debts estimated at up to £3 billion is to be heard in the High Court in October. It is being asked to rule whether Lloyd's is in breach of EC competition rules. Until a ruling is made, Lloyd's is unable to collect debts forcibly. Names claim the debts involved are £3 billion, while Lloyd's claims the sum is £1 billion.

The trial follows an earlier Court of Appeal judgment in November. John Clementson, a name, successfully argued that it was possible that Lloyd's was in breach of EC competition rules. The Court of Appeal judges said it was a possibility but that the issue of whether a breach has taken place had to go to full trial. Mr Clementson, whose action is supported by the Writs Response Group, is arguing that the Lloyd's central fund is a competition-distorting agreement, and as a result, names allege, it is void, and debts owed to it should be discharged.

Bank advances

London Scottish Bank, the consumer finance company which celebrates its centenary this year, unveiled a 38.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.27 million in the year to October 25. Earnings were up by 29.3 per cent to 7.5p a share and the total dividend has increased to 4.1p from 3.4p, with a 2.9p final, up 22.4 per cent, to be paid on March 23. Roy Reese, former marketing director at Great Universal Stores' GUS Home Shopping subsidiary, takes over as chief executive in March after the annual meeting. Jack Livingstone, the chairman, retires in March, to be succeeded by Martin West, currently chief executive.

Samsung

A photograph accompanying a report (January 6) on Samsung, the South Korean industrial group, was of Lee Kun-Hee, the group chairman, and not that of Choi Sung-Rai, the recently appointed head of Samsung Europe. We apologise to both men.

BR to sell £10bn of supply and service contracts

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH RAIL is preparing to sell the opportunity to supply £10 billion or more of goods and services over the next five years.

Industrialists believe the real commercial opportunity of rail privatisation lies not in running trains, or even subscribing for shares in Railtrack, but in the supply and service contracts of the portfolio of 60 service and support businesses on sale over the next 15 months.

The sale will precipitate a fundamental shift in the way the railway procures goods and services. If events in

America are any guide, rolling stock manufacturers must prepare for a future in which they lease trains to operators on a "power by the hour" basis, retaining responsibility for maintenance, and even replacement of the equipment.

ABB Transportation, Bombardier of Canada and other rolling stock manufacturers must be focusing on this problem too. The order famine caused by the privatisation hiatus is already taking its toll at their factories: ABB announced 300 more job cuts only yesterday.

Railway privatisation is a

threat for some but an opportunity for others. Overseas manufacturers of railway signalling equipment may be among the bidders for BR's two signal installation companies. And no British construction contractor or engineering design consultancy can ignore the sale of BR's infrastructure businesses. With a combined turnover of £1 billion a year, the BR maintenance businesses open the door to a huge market hitherto largely closed to private contractors.

Companies like Costain, Tarmac and Wimpey are queueing for details of the various engineering operations. Consultants such as Ove Arup, Sir William Halcrow and Bechtel, which are already gearing up to mount consortium bids to build the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, will feel obliged to take a close look at BR's in-house design operations.

Able managements will find a big commercial opportunity in the privatisation of the BR supply business. Independent consultants have suggested that maintenance costs can be cut by 30 per cent over the next six years. Private sector companies in related businesses may achieve additional synergies.

The opportunities of BR privatisation are not confined to industrial leaders. The range and diversity of operations built up during half a century of state ownership should offer ample opportunities for management buyouts, venture capitalists and entrepreneurs.

Among the lesser-known opportunities are the privatisation of BR's occupational health service, which employs 76 doctors, nurses and administrators, and has annual sales of £3.6 million. Or the Ditton works, near Widnes, Cheshire, where 14 employees generate revenues of £3.4 million a year producing sleepers for BR.

Firms 'disappoint' on race equality

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders yesterday accepted that companies' enactment of racial equality policies was "disappointing" as race equality campaigners attacked business's failure to give prominence to people from ethnic minorities.

Leaders of the Confederation of British Industry yesterday endorsed the launch by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) of a new corporate standard aimed at helping business to improve its policies and practices on racial issues.

Howard Davies, the CBI Director-General, said that the gap between even large companies' policies and practices on racial equality, which had been identified in a CRE survey of big firms, was "on the face of it disappointing".

However, he suggested that the devolved structure of many companies now meant that enactment of policies on race might be at local level, which the CRE survey might not have picked up.

The CBI is soon to publish

its own work arguing the business case on equal opportunities, but, before that, Mr Davies said that companies needed guidance on such issues, and welcomed the CRE's move, which was endorsed yesterday by senior managers from Midland Bank and Littlewoods.

However, business support for the CRE's new standard, which aims to give practical guidance to companies on improving what they do over racial issues on sound business grounds, came as the CRE condemned industry's record over the visibility of people from ethnic minorities.

Herman Ouseley, CRE chairman, speaking at the launch, said: "You never see black faces in the boardroom. You never see them in senior management. They are never part of key negotiating teams."

"That is the real issue. It is the invisibility of ethnic minorities in positions of power and influence in GB plc in 1995."

Photo-Me half-year earnings fall 4%

By NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

A THREE-MONTH plant shutdown and increased overseas competition caused a 4 per cent profits slide at Photo-Me International, the photobooth maker and operator, to £10 million in the six months to October 31.

The downturn occurred in spite of a first-time contribution from KIS, the French photobooth manufacturer that the company acquired a year ago. David Miller, managing director, said Photo-Me had shut down KIS's factory in Grenoble last autumn to modify the designs of its new PhotoVision machines. The company decided it needed to strengthen the machines against vandalism and general wear and tear. The factory returned to work this month.

During the half year the company also suffered the cost of closing down its plant for new photobooths in Bookham, Surrey, with the loss of more than 60 jobs. From now on, all Photo-Me's new machines will be made in France. In the past year, the company increased its spread of machines around the world by 1,000 to 18,000. Of these, 250 are the new PhotoVision machines which are cheaper to run and offer customers more options.

Photo-Me's turnover in the half year rose 6 per cent to £96 million. But operating profits fell by 11 per cent to £11.6 million. Mr Miller said that profit margins had been eroded by increased competition from Polaroid in the US and Frontiux from Switzerland. The company also blames the fall in profits on the stronger pound, and hopes that the exchange rate will improve in the second half of the year.

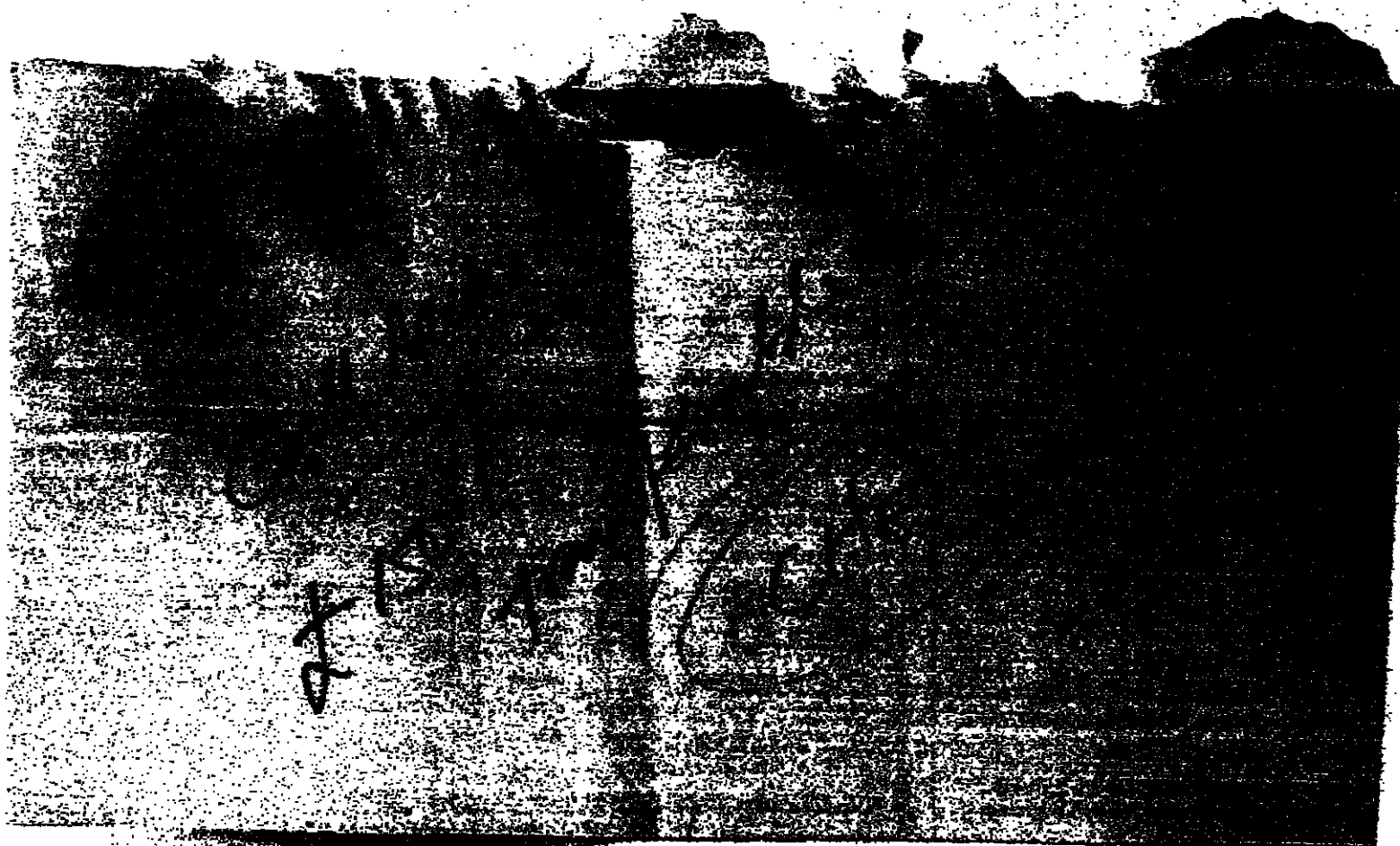
The company is holding its interim dividend at 1.5p, payable on April 7, but says it hopes to increase the final "in line with the expected improvement in earnings".

Times, page 28



David Miller, managing director of Photo-Me, whose latest machines offer greater choice

It's just an idle thought,
until you make it happen.



Walkinshaw to make Volvo more exciting

By KEVIN EASON AND COLIN NARBROUGH

VOLVO, the Swedish company plagued by its staid image as the provider of bulky estate cars for the school run, has formed a joint venture with Tom Walkinshaw to make more exciting cars.

It has formed a new company with Mr Walkinshaw's TWR business to make a range of niche models, including coupes and cabriolets in Sweden. Output could reach 20,000 cars a year.

Volvo also plans to invest £300 million in expanding production in Europe. This will include a 60 per cent increase in output at its truck plant in Irvine, Strathclyde.

The car deal is another high-profile venture for Mr Walkinshaw who has been linked to many of the most famous names in motor racing. He took Jaguar back into racing successfully in the 1980s, winning the Le Mans 24-hour classic, and also manufactured the company's XJ200 supercar.

TWR, based in Kidlington, Oxfordshire, is currently involved in the joint venture to make Aston Martin's £80,000 DB7 sports car.

Mr Walkinshaw, also a key figure in the Benetton Formula One Grand Prix team, ran Volvo's entry in the British Touring Cars Championship last year. Although the sight of Volvo estate racing cars was regarded as unlikely by enthusiasts, they rapidly became popular on circuits.

In the wake of that track record, Volvo has clearly decided that Mr Walkinshaw can also transform the image of its road cars. Volvo has been losing ground in Britain with sales last year down from 1993's 43,740 to 41,599 in spite of the introduction of two key new models, the 850 and 960.

Executives in Sweden have

become increasingly worried that Volvo's image for safe, solid cars has become a millstone instead of a virtue in the 1990s. The 850, which also provides the chassis and running gear for the racing Touring cars, will provide the basis for the Volvo's range of TWR vehicles. Started with share capital of £8.6 million, TWR will hold 51 per cent of the business with Volvo taking 49 per cent.

Production will be centred at the Uddevalla factory in Sweden, with Volvo investing £130 million in product development and the factory, while up to 400 jobs could be created. Per-Erik Mohlin, president of Volvo Car, said:

"This is an aggressive programme in which we will be producing new, specially developed Volvo models in close cooperation with TWR, an internationally recognised company with which we have cooperated successfully."

The strong overall performance of the Swedish automotive group since it aborted a planned merger with Renault, the state-controlled French car and truckmaker in late 1993, appears to have justified the Volvo shareholder revolt that prevented the alliance from going ahead.

Capacity at Volvo's assembly plants will be raised in Sweden, Belgium, Poland and Britain, where the plant at Irvine will raise annual capacity by 2,000 vehicles to 5,500 over the period 1995-96. This will raise the worldwide capacity in trucks, considered the group's strongest division, to 87,000 vehicles a year.

Karl-Erik Frogen, head of Volvo Truck, said that the investment would further strengthen the company's competitiveness after a big jump in demand last year.



Their kinda progress: My Kinda Town executives Andrew Bassadone, left, Stephen Gee, standing, and Peter Webber are enjoying fast growth

Apple pie recipe for caterer's expansion

Jon Ashworth looks at the restaurant group opening outlets in places as diverse as Lisbon and Beirut

Businessmen sniffing for opportunities in Beirut may be surprised to see a brand new Henry J Bean's Bar & Grill standing out amid the cranes and rubble. Send the businessmen to Bangkok and Buenos Aires and they will see the same. Such is the eclectic mix in the portfolio of My Kinda Town, the fast-growing American-themed restaurant group that was barely known outside London five years ago.

The Beirut caterie, due to open in time for Christmas, is a more exotic example of the heights the British restaurant group is willing to scale. Scots are roaming South America, the Far East and the Mediterranean in the search for locations. Henry J Bean's outlets are springing up in Lisbon, Nicosia and Malta.

Behind the expansion lies one of the more colourful stories in British catering. For years, My Kinda Town was inextricably linked with one person — Bob Payton, the larger-than-life American entrepreneur who died in a car crash in July. Mr Payton effectively stepped aside from My Kinda Town in 1990 to develop the Stapleford Park

country house hotel in Leicestershire, but the association lingers on.

Last year brought not only the trauma of his death, but a stock market debut. European Acquisitions, headed by Luke Johnson, reversed into My Kinda Town in May through a £15.7 million deal. Several months on, the company is heading for its first set of results under the new regime and continues with its exotic programme of foreign openings.

Peter Webber, group managing director and architect of the expansion programme, says franchising is the key. My Kinda Town is only venturing into a potentially risky location such as Beirut because a group of Lebanese investors came to him, looking to cash in on the Henry J Bean's name. The same applies in South America, where links have been forged with a wealthy Argentinian family.

The downside for My Kinda Town appears minimal. The franchisees put

up all the money. My Kinda Town designs and builds the restaurants — either Henry J Bean's or its counterpart, The Chicago Pizza Pie Factory. The company remains involved as a consultant and is paid a royalty.

Links are also being forged with hotels. The first Henry J Bean's in the Far East opened in September in the Amari Watergate in Bangkok's financial district. A similarly franchised venture has opened in Brussels, and a deal has been struck closer to home with the Stakis group. Mr Webber, however, wants a balance. The coming year should bring 10 new outlets, half of which will be owned outright. About 50 per cent of My Kinda Town's restaurants are franchised.

All this growth is driven by a simple yet potent brand — good old America, represented by Harley Davidson, Levi 501s, apple pie and Coca-Cola. Mr Webber frequently scours America for memorabilia. He has a bullet-riddled railroad placard in his office, and proudly sports a signed copy of O.J. Simpson's photograph. "Henry J Bean's is the epitome of retro-America of the 1950s and 1960s," he says. "It's American Graffiti meets Cheers meets The Fonz. It might be a cliché, but it's safe and comfortable."

Mr Webber has the experience to know what he is talking about. He has worked for Claridge's in London, The Ritz in Paris and The Half Moon in Montego Bay, and was food and beverage director for GrandMet Hotels. He spent four years as managing director of Imperial Inns and Taverns before joining My Kinda Town in 1986.

So the growth goes on. Five years ago, My Kinda Town had a handful of outlets in the UK, France and Spain. Today it features in 19 cities in 14 countries, yet continues to be run as a small, tight-knit operation. The world headquarters is a set of modest rooms above the flagship Henry J Bean's in Kings Road, London.

"We're still a small company," says Mr Webber. "Certainly when we started we had not planned to get big. It just sort of happened to us."

Retailer cuts interim in spite of upturn

By MARTIN BARROW
CITY NEWS EDITOR

COLORVISION, the domestic appliances retail group based in the north west, has significantly reduced the interim dividend in spite of an encouraging reduction in losses in the first half of the financial year. Dividend payments for the six months to the end of September are being cut to just 0.3p a share from 2.5p previously. The shares fell 3p to 34p.

Until now the company has declared an interim dividend payable out of reserves in anticipation of a favourable outcome for the year. Neville Michaelson, chairman, said yesterday: "The directors have concluded that in the current climate a more modest interim dividend should be paid to clearly reflect the seasonality of the business."

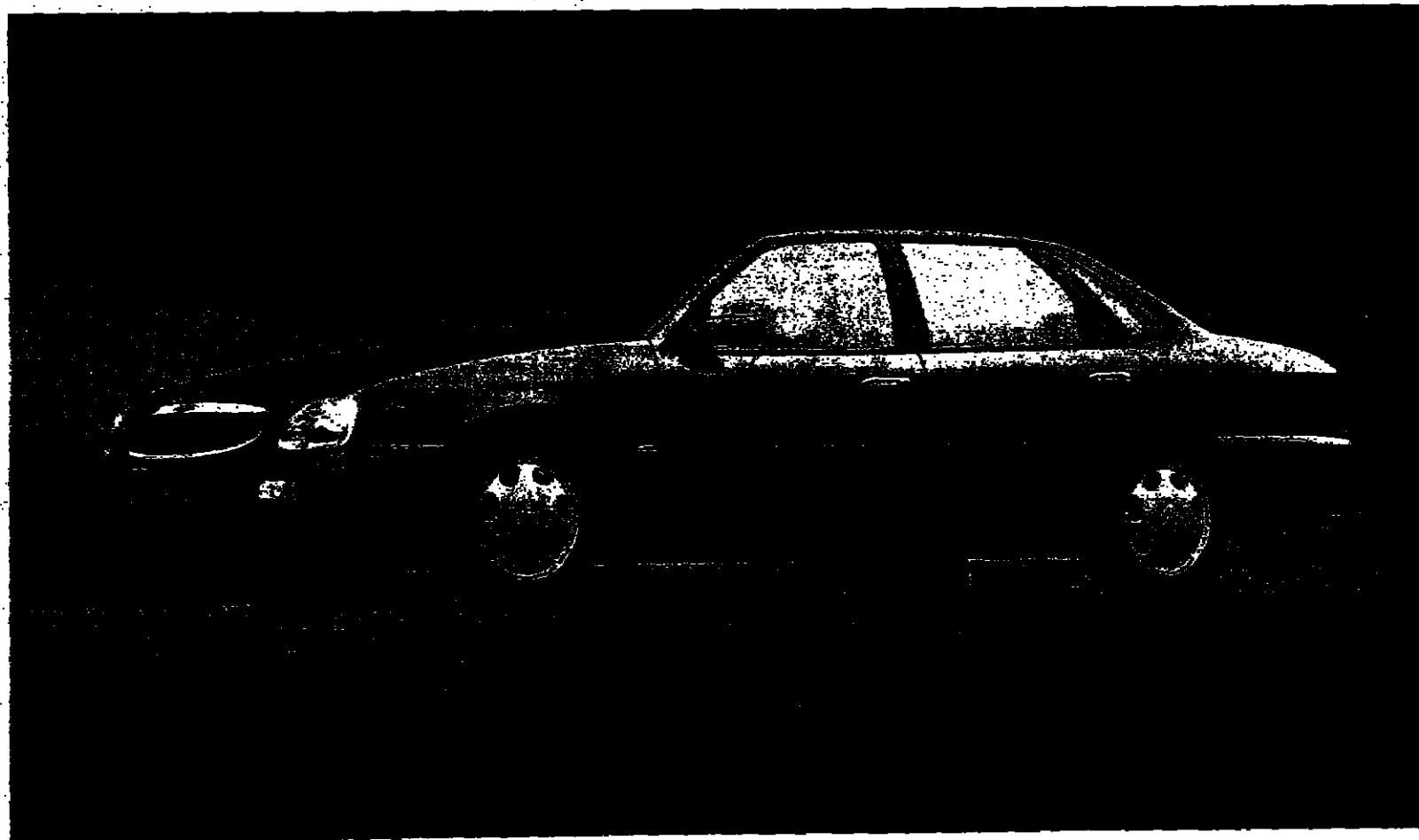
The final dividend would be linked to profits earned during the year, he said. The company has increased its market share since the half-year end with a 9 per cent increase in like-for-like sales in the third quarter. "We look forward to an improved performance for the financial year, subject to a satisfactory outcome for the final outcome," said Mr Michaelson.

The interim loss was reduced to £590,000 before tax from £1.26 million on higher turnover of £29.06 million, compared with £27.1 million. Like-for-like sales increased by 5.5 per cent in a competitive market.

In the high street division nine outlets were closed and one store opened in Stretford, Greater Manchester. The company's superstores in North and South Liverpool traded satisfactorily, the company said.

Colorvision seeks to strengthen its market share from a smaller number of stores, and currently trades from 83 outlets, six fewer than one year ago. A review of the portfolio continues.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Source: Flaxat
* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return).
† Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant diff.
§ Periodic Change deducted from capital; @ Exit
Charge.

Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994/95		1994/95					
High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price
BANKS							
333	369	Barclays Bank	434	414	413	Barclays Bank	413
334	370	Bank of Scotland	435	415	414	Bank of Scotland	414
335	371	Bank of Ireland	436	416	415	Bank of Ireland	415
336	372	Bank of London	437	417	416	Bank of London	416
337	373	Bank of Montreal	438	418	417	Bank of Montreal	417
338	374	Bank of New York	439	419	418	Bank of New York	418
339	375	Bank of Paris	440	420	419	Bank of Paris	419
340	376	Bank of Spain	441	421	420	Bank of Spain	420
341	377	Bank of Tokyo	442	422	421	Bank of Tokyo	421
342	378	Bank of West	443	423	422	Bank of West	422
343	379	Bank of America	444	424	423	Bank of America	423
344	380	Bank of Canada	445	425	424	Bank of Canada	424
345	381	Bank of China	446	426	425	Bank of China	425
346	382	Bank of India	447	427	426	Bank of India	426
347	383	Bank of Japan	448	428	427	Bank of Japan	427
348	384	Bank of Korea	449	429	428	Bank of Korea	428
349	385	Bank of Russia	450	430	429	Bank of Russia	429
350	386	Bank of South Africa	451	431	430	Bank of South Africa	430
351	387	Bank of Sweden	452	432	431	Bank of Sweden	431
352	388	Bank of Switzerland	453	433	432	Bank of Switzerland	432
353	389	Bank of Taiwan	454	434	433	Bank of Taiwan	433
354	390	Bank of Thailand	455	435	434	Bank of Thailand	434
355	391	Bank of Vietnam	456	436	435	Bank of Vietnam	435
356	392	Bank of Hong Kong	457	437	436	Bank of Hong Kong	436
357	393	Bank of Australia	458	438	437	Bank of Australia	437
358	394	Bank of New Zealand	459	439	438	Bank of New Zealand	438
359	395	Bank of Argentina	460	440	439	Bank of Argentina	439
360	396	Bank of Brazil	461	441	440	Bank of Brazil	440
361	397	Bank of Chile	462	442	441	Bank of Chile	441
362	398	Bank of Colombia	463	443	442	Bank of Colombia	442
363	399	Bank of Ecuador	464	444	443	Bank of Ecuador	443
364	400	Bank of Peru	465	445	444	Bank of Peru	444
365	401	Bank of Venezuela	466	446	445	Bank of Venezuela	445
366	402	Bank of Mexico	467	447	446	Bank of Mexico	446
367	403	Bank of Central America	468	448	447	Bank of Central America	447
368	404	Bank of the Caribbean	469	449	448	Bank of the Caribbean	448
369	405	Bank of the Pacific	470	450	449	Bank of the Pacific	449
370	406	Bank of the South	471	451	450	Bank of the South	450
371	407	Bank of the North	472	452	451	Bank of the North	451
372	408	Bank of the East	473	453	452	Bank of the East	452
373	409	Bank of the West	474	454	453	Bank of the West	453
374	410	Bank of the Middle	475	455	454	Bank of the Middle	454
375	411	Bank of the South	476	456	455	Bank of the South	455
376	412	Bank of the North	477	457	456	Bank of the North	456
377	413	Bank of the East	478	458	457	Bank of the East	457
378	414	Bank of the West	479	459	458	Bank of the West	458
379	415	Bank of the Middle	480	460	459	Bank of the Middle	459
380	416	Bank of the South	481	461	460	Bank of the South	460
381	417	Bank of the North	482	462	461	Bank of the North	461
382	418	Bank of the East	483	463	462	Bank of the East	462
383	419	Bank of the West	484	464	463	Bank of the West	463
384	420	Bank of the Middle	485	465	464	Bank of the Middle	464
385	421	Bank of the South	486	466	465	Bank of the South	465
386	422	Bank of the North	487	467	466	Bank of the North	466
387	423	Bank of the East	488	468	467	Bank of the East	467
388	424	Bank of the West	489	469	468	Bank of the West	468
389	425	Bank of the Middle	490	470	469	Bank of the Middle	469
390	426	Bank of the South	491	471	470	Bank of the South	470
391	427	Bank of the North	492	472	471	Bank of the North	471
392	428	Bank of the East	493	473	472	Bank of the East	472
393	429	Bank of the West	494	474	473	Bank of the West	473
394	430	Bank of the Middle	495	475	474	Bank of the Middle	474
395	431	Bank of the South	496	476	475	Bank of the South	475
396	432	Bank of the North	497	477	476	Bank of the North	476
397	433	Bank of the East	498	478	477	Bank of the East	477
398	434	Bank of the West	499	479	478	Bank of the West	478
399	435	Bank of the Middle	500	480	479	Bank of the Middle	479
400	436	Bank of the South	501	481	480	Bank of the South	480
401	437	Bank of the North	502	482	481	Bank of the North	481
402	438	Bank of the East	503	483	482	Bank of the East	482
403	439	Bank of the West	504	484	483	Bank of the West	483
404	440	Bank of the Middle	505	485	484	Bank of the Middle	484
405	441	Bank of the South	506	486	485	Bank of the South	485
406	442	Bank of the North	507	487	486	Bank of the North	486
407	443	Bank of the East	508	488	487	Bank of the East	487
408	444	Bank of the West	509	489	488	Bank of the West	488
409	445	Bank of the Middle	510	490	489	Bank of the Middle	489
410	446	Bank of the South	511	491	490	Bank of the South	490
411	447	Bank of the North	512	492	491	Bank of the North	491
412	448	Bank of the East	513	493	492	Bank of the East	492
413	449	Bank of the West	514	494	493	Bank of the West	493
414	450	Bank of the Middle	515	495	494	Bank of the Middle	494
415	451	Bank of the South	516	496	495	Bank of the South	495
416	452	Bank of the North	517	497	496	Bank of the North	496
417	453	Bank of the East	518	498	497	Bank of the East	497
418	454	Bank of the West	519	499	498	Bank of the West	498
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420	456	Bank of the South	521	501	500	Bank of the South	500
421	457	Bank of the North	522	502	501	Bank of the North	501
422	458	Bank of the East	523	503	502	Bank of the East	502
423	459	Bank of the West	524	504	503	Bank of the West	503
424	460	Bank of the Middle	525	505	504	Bank of the Middle	504
425	461	Bank of the South	526	506	505	Bank of the South	505
426	462	Bank of the North	527	507	506	Bank of the North	506
427	463	Bank of the East	528	508	507	Bank of the East	507
428	464	Bank of the West	529	509	508	Bank of the West	508
429	465	Bank of the Middle	530	510	509	Bank of the Middle	509
430	466	Bank of the South	531	511	510	Bank of the South	510
431	467	Bank of the North	532	512	511	Bank of the North	511
432	468	Bank of the East	533	513	512	Bank of the East	512
433	469	Bank of the West	534	514	513	Bank of the West	513
434	470	Bank of the Middle	535	515	514	Bank of the Middle	514
435	471	Bank of the South	536	516	515	Bank of the South	515
436	472	Bank of the North	537	517	516	Bank of the North	516
437	473	Bank of the East	538	518	517	Bank of the East	517
438	474	Bank of the West	539	519	518	Bank of the West	518
439	475	Bank of the Middle	540	520	519	Bank of the Middle	519
440	476	Bank of the South	541	521	520	Bank of the South	520
441	477	Bank of the North	542	522	521	Bank of the North	521
442	478	Bank of the East	543	523	522	Bank of the East	522
443	479	Bank of the West	544	524	523	Bank of the West	523
444	480	Bank of the Middle	545	525	524	Bank of the Middle	524
445	481	Bank of the South	546	526	525	Bank of the South	525
446	482	Bank of the North	547	527	526	Bank of the North	526
447	483	Bank of the East	548	528	527	Bank of the East	527
448	484	Bank of the West	549	529	528	Bank of the West	528
449	485	Bank of the Middle	550	530	529	Bank of the Middle	529
450	486	Bank of the South	551	531	530	Bank of the South	530
451	487	Bank of the North	552	532	531	Bank of the North	531
452	488	Bank of the East	553	533	532	Bank of the East	532
453	489	Bank of the West	554	534	533	Bank of the West	533
454	490	Bank of the Middle	555	535	534	Bank of the Middle	534
455	491	Bank of the South	556	536	535	Bank of the South	535
456	492	Bank of the North	557	537	536	Bank of the North	536
457	493	Bank of the East	558	538	537	Bank of the East	537
458	494	Bank of the West	559	539	538	Bank of the West	538
459	495	Bank of the Middle	560	540	539	Bank of the Middle	539
460	496	Bank of the South	561	541	540	Bank of the South	540
461	497	Bank of the North	562	542	541	Bank of the North	541
462	498	Bank of the East	563	543	542	Bank of the East	542
463	499	Bank of the West	564	544	543	Bank of the West	543
464	500	Bank of the Middle	565	545	544	Bank of the Middle	544
465	501	Bank of the South	566	546	545	Bank of the South	545
466	502	Bank of the North	567	547	546	Bank of the North	546
467	503	Bank of the East	568	548	547	Bank of the East	547
468	504	Bank of the West	569	549	548	Bank of the West	548
469	505	Bank of the Middle	570	550	549	Bank of the Middle	549
470	506	Bank of the South	571	551	550	Bank of the South	550
471	507	Bank of the North	572	552	551	Bank of the North	551
472	508	Bank of the East	573	553	552	Bank of the East	552
473	509	Bank of the West	574	554	553	Bank of the West	553
474	510	Bank of the Middle	575	555	554	Bank of the Middle	554
475	511	Bank of the South	576	556	555	Bank of the South	555
476	512	Bank of the North	577	557	556	Bank of the North	556
477	513	Bank of the East	578	558	557	Bank of the East	557
478	514	Bank of the West	579	559	558	Bank of the West	558
479	515	Bank of the Middle	580	560	559	Bank of the Middle	559
480	516	Bank of the South	581	561	560	Bank of the South	560
481	517	Bank of the North	582	562	561	Bank of the North	561
482	518	Bank of the East	583	563	562	Bank of the East	562
483	519	Bank of the West	584	564	563	Bank of the West	563
484	520	Bank of the Middle	585	565	564	Bank of the Middle	564
485	521	Bank of the South	586	566	565	Bank of the South	565
486	522	Bank of the North	587	567	566	Bank of the North	566
487	523	Bank of the East	588	568	567	Bank of the East	567
488	524	Bank of the West	589	569	568	Bank of the West	568
489	525	Bank of the Middle	590	570	569	Bank of the Middle	569
490	526	Bank of the South	591	571	570	Bank of the South	570
491	527	Bank of the North	592	572	571	Bank of the North	571
492	528	Bank of the East	593	573	572	Bank of the East	572
493	529	Bank of the West	594	574	573	Bank of the West	573
494	530	Bank of the Middle	595	575	574	Bank of the Middle	574
495	531						

Law Report January 19 1995 Court of Appeal

Investigating officers' reports subject to public interest immunity

Taylor v Chief Constable of Greater Manchester

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Morritt
[Judgment January 13]

Reports prepared by investigating officers in the conduct of proceedings under Part IX of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 formed a class which was entitled to public interest immunity. Accordingly their disclosure would only be ordered where the public interest in production outweighed that in preserving their confidentiality.

Where a plaintiff began an action for malicious prosecution so that he was *prima facie* entitled to a jury trial, but had deployed his case relying on wide-ranging matters which the defendant sought to meet by detailed documentation, it was not convenient within the meaning of section 69(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 that the claim be tried by a judge and jury and the matter would accordingly be determined by a judge alone.

The Court of Appeal so held when (i) granting an application by the defendant, Sir James Anderson, former Chief Constable of the Greater Manchester Police, for leave to appeal and allowing his appeal from Mr Justice Owen who had ruled that three reports prepared by investigating officers

in proceedings conducted under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority, together with the working papers, were not subject to a class claim to public interest immunity, and (ii) refusing an application by the plaintiff, Kevin Taylor, for leave to appeal from the decision of Mr Justice Owen that trial of his action against the defendant claiming damages for malicious prosecution, misfeasance in public office and conspiracy during specified periods should be heard by a judge alone.

Mr Roger Farley, QC and Mr Harold Halliday for Mr Taylor; Mr Brian Leveson, QC, Mr Graham Morrow and Mr Graham Wells for the chief constable; Mr Nicholas Ainley for the Police Complaints Authority.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in 1987 the plaintiff, a Manchester businessman, had been charged with offences of dishonesty.

His trial had begun in October 1989 in Manchester and ended in January 1990 in his formal acquittal after leading counsel for the Crown had told the judge that he did not think it right to invite the jury to convict and propose the order for no further evidence. The plaintiff had begun the present action in 1991.

In the amended statement of

claim a series of factual allegations had been made, based on a whole course of police conduct, asserting a far reaching plot to destroy the plaintiff as a means of destroying Mr John Staiter with whom he had been associated. A detailed and heavily documented defence had been raised by the defendant to meet those allegations and from the voluminous pleadings it was evident that the issues raised went beyond those addressed in the criminal trial.

Public interest immunity
His Lordship referred to the three reports and their internal working papers in respect of which the defendant claimed immunity. It was important to record that the content and original documents on which the investigating officers had relied in making the reports either had been served on the plaintiff or would be delivered to him.

By Order 24, rule (1) and rule 2(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court the defendant became subject to the obligation to give discovery of all documents which were or had been in his possession, control or power relating to material in the action.

The meaning of that phrase had been defined in *Compagnie Financière et Commerciale du Pacifique v Peruvian Guano Co* (1882) 11 QBD 55, 62 where relevance had been defined in the widest possible terms.

The defendant had resisted production for inspection in reliance on Order 24, rule 13 on the grounds that it was not necessary for fairly disposing of the cause or matter or for saving costs.

The first issue was whether production was necessary that it was not the proper approach to take from the speech of Lord Woolf in *R v Chief Constable of West Midlands, Ex parte Wiley* (The Times July 15, 1994; [1994] 3 WLR 433, 443 C-G).

The defendant had argued that the reports were not necessary for either of the purposes specified in the rule since the plaintiff would receive all the primary evidence on which the reports were based; that what remained were opinions of the investigating officers which would be inadmissible in evidence; that they were irrelevant to any issue in the case and were extremely unlikely in a case as fully explored as the present to suggest any new train of inquiry.

The judge had rejected that argument. In his Lordship's view the crucial consideration was the question of the phrase "disposing fairly of the cause or matter".

That directed attention to whether inspection was necessary for the fair disposal of the matter by trial or otherwise and was designed to ensure that each party did not enjoy an unfair advantage or suffer an unfair disadvantage in the litigation as a result of a document not being produced for inspection.

It was of no importance that a party was curious about the contents of a document if he suffered

no litigious disadvantage by not seeing it and would gain no *trifling advantage* by seeing it. That was the test.

In his Lordship's judgment it was most unlikely that inspection of the reports was necessary for either of the prescribed purposes but it was not for the appellate court to rule since it had not seen the documents.

In any event had it done so it would have been unable, not being versed in the minutiae of the exceptionally complex and detailed case, to appreciate whether the reports contained anything of value not already disclosed by the statements and contemporary documents of which the plaintiff had already had sight.

His Lordship had grave doubts whether production was necessary within the meaning of rule 13 but would remit the question to the judge for reconsideration of the application were repeated in the light of the court's judgments.

If the judge considered that production was not necessary, that was, unless he altered his view at any interlocutory stage, the end of the matter. If he did decide that production was necessary, he would then have to determine whether those documents fell within a class *prima facie* entitled to be withheld from disclosure on the ground of public interest immunity.

In *Ex parte Wiley* it was accepted by all the parties and the House of Lords held that such immunity did not attach to a class comprising the statements obtained for purposes of an independent investigation under the 1984 Act. Existing authority to contrary effect had been overruled.

In the absence of argument no ruling was given on the reports themselves and it was made clear that the question should be left open for decision when it arose. It did so in the present case.

When the 1984 Act was passed, no statutory immunity was conferred on reports but existing authority was to the effect that such immunity existed. The Act prescribed with some particularity the matters to be made particularly available to a complainant but did not provide for the investigating officers' reports to be seen by anyone other than the police authority which commissioned it and the Police Complaints Authority.

Although fully alive to the existence of a current strongly flowing in favour of openness and disclosure, his Lordship was also mindful of the fundamental public interest in ensuring that those responsible for the maintenance of law and order were themselves uncorrupt, law abiding and honest.

In many cases where an investigating officer was appointed

there must be a real prospect of civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings.

His Lordship had no difficulty in accepting the need for investigating officers to feel free to report on professional colleagues or members of the public without the apprehension that their opinions might become known to such persons and he could readily accept that the prospect of disclosure in other than unusual circumstances would have an undesirable and inhibiting effect on their reports.

He would therefore hold that the reports of investigating officers, made in circumstances such as the present, formed a class which was entitled to public interest immunity.

That did not shut the plaintiff out if he was able to satisfy the judge, applying the familiar test, that on the facts of the present case the public interest in disclosing the contents of the reports or any part of them outweighed the public interest in preserving their confidentiality. That was a matter for the trial judge.

The defendant's application for leave to appeal was granted and the appeal would be allowed.

Solicitors: Taylors, Blackburn, Weightman, Rutherford, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor.

Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Morritt agreed.

Solicitors: Taylors, Blackburn, Weightman, Rutherford, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor.

That did not shut the plaintiff out if he was able to satisfy the judge, applying the familiar test, that on the facts of the present case the public interest in disclosing the contents of the reports or any part of them outweighed the public interest in preserving their confidentiality. That was a matter for the trial judge.

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Solicitors: Taylors, Blackburn, Weightman, Rutherford, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor.

Circumstances requiring transfer

Deeny and Others v Littlejohn & Co (a Firm) and Others

Before Mrs Justice Arden
[Judgment December 7]

There was nothing to prevent litigation concerning Lloyd's syndicates being brought in the Chancery Division unless there were special circumstances which not merely warranted but required transfer to another division.

Mrs Justice Arden so held in the Chancery Division when making an order that two actions should be transferred to the Queen's Bench Division for hearing in the Commercial Court on applications made in the first action by the first, second and third defendants, respectively, Littlejohn & Co, Littlejohn De Paula and Littlejohn Fraser, all firms, and in the second action by the fifth and sixth defendants, Heath ReBroking Ltd and C. E. Heath (Insurance Broking) Ltd.

The plaintiffs in both actions were Michael Euan McLarnon Deeny and 2,655 persons who were or had been the personal representatives of names on Lloyd's Syndicates 164 and 290 for the 1989 and 1990 years of account on which they suffered losses.

The fourth defendants in the first action were Gooda Walker Ltd, in voluntary liquidation, and 69 other defendants. The first, second, third and fourth defendants in the second action were, respectively, Derek James Walker, Andrew Morant Goodier, Willis Corroon Ltd and Stewart Wrightson International Group Ltd.

First action: Mr Geoffrey Vos, QC and Mr David Lord for the plaintiffs; Mr Michael Harvey, QC and Mr Clive Weston for the first, second and third defendants. Second action: Mr Mark Harris for the first defendant; Mr Mark Pelling for the second defendant; Mr Mark Howard for the third and fourth defendants; Mr Thomas Kelch for the fifth and sixth defendants.

MRS JUSTICE ARDEN said that the defendants in the first action, the auditors, were, so far as material, the auditors of the syndicates. The defendants in the second action, the brokers, were insurance brokers, a representative of one of them, Mr Goodier, and the active underwriter of Syndicate 290 and the excess of loss underwriter on Syndicate 164, Mr Walker.

The actions concerned time and distance and roll-over policies written by Syndicates 164 and 290 in the years 1980 to 1988 which in certain of those years materially increased profits or eliminated losses without what the plaintiffs said would have been proper disclosure in the syndicates' accounts. In consequence the plaintiffs said that they were induced to continue or increase their participation on Syndicates 164 and 290.

The defendant brokers were said to have acted in breach of duty in negotiating those policies. The auditors were said to have been in breach of duty in relation to the audit in failing to consider the effect of the time and distance and roll-over policies on the accounts on which they were reporting.

The allegations included allegations of dishonesty against Mr Walker and the defendant brokers. It was alleged, *inter alia*, that the losses of a related loss making syndicate (No 295) were reinsured with a third party which in turn reinsured the losses with Syndicates 164 and 290 for an inadequate premium, and that to the knowledge of the brokers that was arranged so as to induce the names to continue to underwrite in later years.

The court now had to rule on two applications brought by the defendants in the auditors' action and by two of the defendant brokers in the brokers' action for the transfer of the actions to the Queen's Bench Division with a view to their being heard in the Commercial Court.

The High Court was divided three divisions. Each division had its own listing office and waiting

times to trial could differ. Some cases were required to be heard in a particular division, but it had not been suggested that the instant cases contained cases of that description.

The court had power to transfer actions from one division to another and the power was not limited to a case where an action was one of those required to be begun in a particular division but begun in error in the wrong division.

The Commercial Court was part of the Queen's Bench Division. It dealt with commercial actions which were defined in Order 72, rule (2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court as follows: "... commercial action" includes any cause arising out of the ordinary transactions of merchants and traders... and any cause relating to the construction of a mercantile document, the export or import of merchandise, affreightment, insurance, banking, mercantile agency and mercantile usage.

Her Ladyship said that she had been taken to four cases on the question of transfer: *Barclays Bank plc v Bannister*, *Poynter v Gibbs Harley Corporation* (1989) 1 WLR 128 and *Pantheon Ltd v Chandler Hargreaves Ltd* (1989) 129 NLJ 329. In all the cases transfer was refused. It was held not to be a sufficient reason for transfer that an earlier hearing date could be obtained in the other division.

An application for transfer should only be made if the action had been begun in a division, or in the case of the Commercial Court a sub-division, of the High Court to which "in accordance with the rules or generally accepted practice it [was] inappropriate" *per* Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls in *Barclays Bank* (at p131). The fact that the dispute concerned insurance on Lloyd's policy wording was not enough: see the *Pantheon* case.

From those authorities it could be seen: 1 That the courts did not encourage applications to transfer cases from one division to another. 2 That a high standard had to be met and

3 That it had to be shown that it was inappropriate for the case to proceed in the division in which it had been commenced. That meant that there must be special circumstances which not merely warranted but required the transfer.

In *Boobyer v Holman* (1992) 2 Lloyd's Rep 436, 439 concerning an action brought by a name to prevent Lloyd's from drawing on his Lloyd's deposit, to meet his losses, the court held that the case was one of the ordinary transactions of the Chancery Division.

Her Ladyship having referred to counsel's submissions, accepted that the instant case was one which ought to be brought in the Chancery Division. However, the applicants had met the high burden required for an order for the actions to be transferred.

The compelling reasons were: 1 The innovative and proactive case management of Lloyd's litigation by Mr Justice Cresswell whereby the business of Lloyd's was brought before the court. 2 The fact that virtually all Lloyd's related litigation arising out of the losses incurred on the 1989 and 1990 accounts and earlier years had been commenced in the Commercial Court. It was now a generalised accepted practice that most of that litigation would be conducted in the Commercial Court.

It was self-evident that the underlying facts involved technical aspects of reinsurance and the conduct of business of Lloyd's syndicates including the audit of their profits and losses.

The first factor, the case management factor, was not present in 1992 when Mr Justice Cresswell considered the question of transfer in the *Boobyer* case. But events since then had confirmed his decision in relation to a dispute which involved, at its heart, technical aspects of reinsurance.

Solicitors: First action: Wilde Sapte, Cameron Markby Hewitt. Second action: Burton Copland, Warner Cranston, Richards Butler; Berwin Leighton.

Bank can assume solicitor acted properly

Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Hoffmann
[Judgment January 13]

A bank dealing through a solicitor with a wife acting as surety for a loan to her husband could normally assume that the solicitor had properly advised the wife. It was not required to take any further steps to avoid being misled by the husband's undue influence by the husband so as to enable the wife to escape liability for the debt.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Sudhakar Rayare, the third defendant, against an order of Mr Recorder W. George, made on February 8, 1994 in Bury County Court that she was liable under a legal charge signed by her in or about September 1986 charging by way of mortgage her interest in 7 Bideford Drive, Brighton, Bolton as security to guarantee all present and future debts of Anoopam Millers Ltd, a company owned by her husband, Anantlal and her son Nagesh Rayare, to surrender possession of the property to the plaintiff, the Bank of Baroda.

Mr A. Charles Brown for the bank; Mr Jeffrey Tarry for the bank.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that Anoopam Millers had substantial obligations to the bank and a considerable amount of money tied up in stock.

The company's directors were the first and second defendants, who owned the shares. The third defendant was employed as the company secretary.

Cash flow problems required the company to raise extra funds by way of a mortgage on the disputed property, which was registered in the names of all three defendants.

The charge document contained a statement or certificate that the chargee acknowledged receipt of the charge deed and to have been advised of its effect and of the right to have independent legal advice on its effect. The certificate was signed separately by each of the defendants.

The judge found that the bank had failed to rebut the wife's claim that she had agreed the charge under her husband's undue influence and that the transaction was to her manifest disadvantage.

However, he had concluded that it was very doubtful whether the bank was put on inquiry that the matter was not being dealt with normally and competently; that the bank was entitled to rely on the solicitor giving his client correct advice and that the matter was put beyond doubt by the statement endorsed on the charge document and signed by the defendants.

His Lordship referred to *Barclays Bank plc v O'Brien* (The Times October 22, 1993; [1994] 1 AC 180), which focused solely on constructive knowledge of misrepresentation and undue influence and the bank's failure to take reasonable steps to avoid being misled with such constructive knowledge.

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In the present case, the bank knew that all three defendants were being advised by a solicitor throughout all the relevant steps in their action. The bank was entitled, to assume that each of the three clients would be properly advised as was clearly the solicitor's duty and in particular the bank was entitled to assume that the solicitor would advise the wife on the importance of separate legal advice. The bank was entitled to assume the solicitor was doing his job properly.

The bank had obtained a certificate that appeared to have been given and the signature of the wife had effectively been counter-signed by the solicitor. Any questioning as to the correctness of the certificate would have involved questioning the probity and honesty of the solicitor, which the bank was not required to do.

Midland Bank plc v Massey (The Times March 23, 1994) was not on all fours with the present case. In that case Lord Justice Slynn had observed: "It was generally sufficient for the bank to avoid a finding of constructive notice if the bank urged the proposed surety to take independent advice from a solicitor. How far the solicitor should go in

probing the matter and in giving advice was a matter for the solicitor's professional judgment and a matter between him and his client. The bank was not generally involved in the nature and extent of his advice."

The same applied *mutatis mutandis* so far as the solicitor in this case was concerned.

LORD JUSTICE HOFFMANN said the bank was entitled to assume that the solicitor had given appropriate advice and that if there were a conflict of interest the solicitor would have advised the client to take independent advice.

The bank's legal department was not required to commit the professional duty of doubting whether the solicitor had actually given the required advice nor was it required to inform the solicitor of his professional duties.

That applied *a fortiori* where the surety had certified in writing that such advice had been given. Although the bank was not obliged to issue such a certificate as part of the loan documentation.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL agreed.

Solicitors: Kumars, East Ealing; Peter Rickson & Partners, Manchester.

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Scots Law Report January 19 1995 Inner House

Money paid under error of law is recoverable subject to equity

Morgan Guaranty Trust Co of New York v Lothian Regional Council

Before Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Clyde and Lord Cullen
[Judgment December 1]

The decisions of the courts from 1820 onwards had held that money paid under error of law could not be recovered had been wrongly decided. In such circumstances, the money was recoverable unless the recipient could show that it would be inequitable for him to have to repay it.

The Inner House of the Court of Session, sitting as a court of five judges, so held, allowing a reclaiming motion against the decision of the Lord Ordinary (The Times November 30, 1993) dismissing an action brought by the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York against Lothian Regional Council, granting *decretum in solido* for the sum of £368,104.52, and remitting to the Lord Ordinary the question of interest.

Mr William Nimmro-Smith, QC and Mr Eric Robertson for the pursuers and reclaimers; Mr Neil Davidson, QC and Mr Alastair Cline for the defenders and respondents.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that the parties had entered into a "swap" agreement, under which the pursuers had made net payments to the defenders of £368,104.52. Mr Davidson was content for present purposes to accept that the agreement had been ultra vires of the defenders, because of section 69(1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The payments had been made in implementation of a supposed obligation under a contract which had been discovered not to

Dutch lose their accent

A new show sheds good and bad light on some minor 18th-century painters, says John Russell Taylor

While understandably, the British have always considered the 18th century a sort of Golden Age of their own art, they have all too often been ready to dismiss the same period as one of decline and eclipse elsewhere in Europe.

Six years ago the National Gallery radically revised suppositions about Spanish art with a revelatory show, "Painting in Spain during the later 18th century". Now the gallery has set out to do the same for 18th-century Dutch art with "The Age of Elegance", a group of some 40 paintings from the permanent collection of the Rijksmuseum.

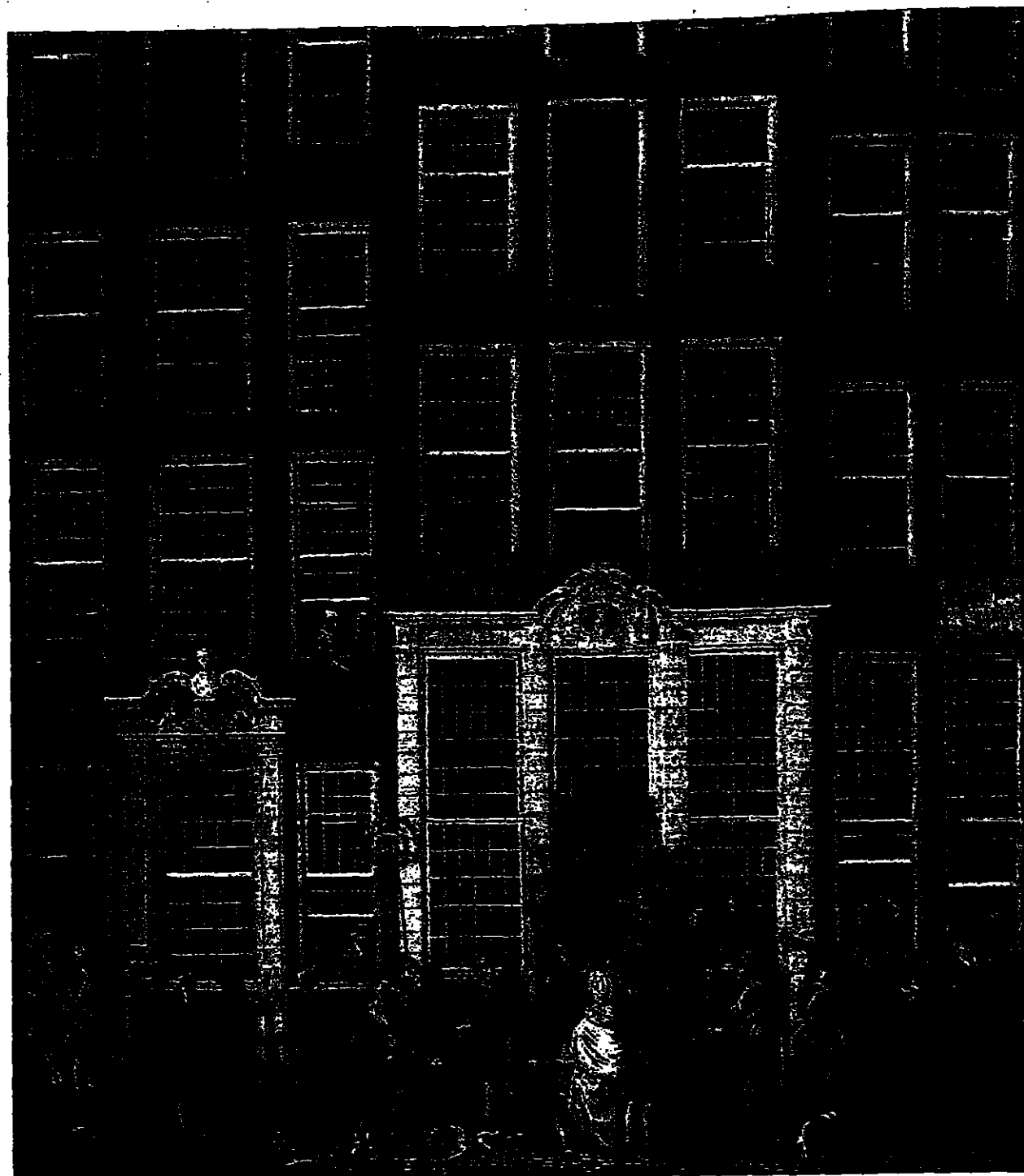
And is it a revelation of unknown delights? Well, yes and no. First, it must be said, there is no major discovery in the order of Melendrez. Possibly, indeed, the most important-looking painter is the one British collector has known all along: Aert de Gelder, Rembrandt's last pupil, who continued to paint in a development of Rembrandt's later style well into the 18th century. (He did not die until 1727.)

What he could do is clearly demonstrated by his group portrait of the surgeon Hermanus Boerhaave and his family, which is rich in psychological insights, and technically bold in its free use of the handle of the brush to scratch patterns in the wet paint: a remarkable work for a man approaching 80.

But this, for all its quality, is backward-looking. It is harder to find any signs of coherent evolution in Dutch art as a whole as the century progresses. While in the 17th century there was a style — indeed, several styles — that immediately mark a work as Dutch, in the 18th it is very difficult to isolate distinguishing features which would identify a painting as Dutch rather than, say, British or French.

Sometimes the features are not too flattering. There is something slightly gaudy and provincial about Jacob de Wit's design for a ceiling featuring the apotheosis of Aeneas, as compared with contemporary Italian work, or Isak Walraven's *The Death of Epaminondas*, a very unusual Dutch attempt at classical history painting in the French manner.

On the other hand, where the Dutch painters stick to a sort of crisp, bourgeois realism or minute topographical



Jackpot: The Bookshop and Lottery Agency of Jan de Groot in Kalverstraat, Amsterdam by Isak Ouwater (1779)

precision, there is much which is really enjoyable. Sometimes it is just a detail. The dogs in Heroman van der Mijns *A Young Woman with a Dog by a Spring* (he is giving it a drink from a delicate shell-like cup), or Wybrand Hendrick's *Woman Sewing in an Interior* (in which a peculiarly crazed-looking dog seems about to make off with something vital to the sewing process), are particularly well observed. Scenes from plays, like

Cornelis Troost's *The Spendthrift, Act 3, Scene 3*, clearly belong to the same 18th-century family as works by Hogarth or Longhi. Tibout Regnier's full-length portrait of a brisk young soldier, *Ludolf Bakhuisen the Younger*, would fit in neatly somewhere between Zoffany and Stubbs. And one piece of townscap, Isak Ouwater's *The Bookshop and Lottery Agency of Jan de Groot in Kalverstraat, Amsterdam*, is immediately

recognisable as Dutch by its subject, an astonishing head-on depiction of the building on a precisely noted day, October 25, 1779, when it was besieged by townspeople eager to buy tickets for the lottery inaugurated that day. Clearly, nothing in human nature has changed too dramatically.

● *The Age of Elegance* is at the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-936 3321), Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 2-6pm, until March 26

POP: Canadians' spirited British debut against the odds

Better late than Nirvana

Moist
Camden Palace

To his right, guitarist Mark Makovick might have been the twisted brain behind the experiment, his face contorting into various feralish expressions as he drilled out his parts with manic finesse. On the other side of the small stage, Kevin Young exhibited all the tell-tale signs of a serious keyboard abuser: hunched back, flailing hair, the body language of a boxer. But, for all the extravagant tossing of manes and jitterbugging about in such an enclosed space, they sang and played faultlessly.

There was an air of tenuous menace to songs such as "Kill For You" and last year's single, "Push", and while their music obviously has tremendous commercial potential there was an unsettling

undercurrent to this performance that provided valuable roughage to the package as a whole.

The set ended with an astounding version of "This Shrieking Love", Makovick launching himself on to the heads of the crowd — still playing his guitar — while Usher assisted Young in a full-scale assault on his keyboard, all done without dropping a beat.

Normal disco service was swiftly resumed once Moist took their leave. But for a minute it looked as if the humans might just have got the upper hand.

DAVID SINCLAIR

LONDON

THREE OPENINGS AT THE BARBICAN: Jenny Agutter means to do the RSC tonight with a new cast for just 16 performances of Ian Judge's play *Love's Labour's Lost*. Over in the gallery, the first comprehensive survey of the development of Impressionism in Britain features 200 works by 100 artists — a veritable "who's who" of turn-of-the-century innovators. Meanwhile back in the concert hall, Pierre Boulez leads one of his renowned conducting masterclasses to begin his 70th birthday celebrations with the London Symphony Orchestra. See Boulez: *Masterclass*, page 38.

Barbican Centre, Silk Street EC2 (01-638 8891/Gallery, 638-4141). Today's schedule: 19.30 and 7.15pm. Today's highlights: 19.30pm, with a pre-concert event at 6.15pm: Impressionism 10am-6.45pm, until May 7.

NICOLAS POUSSIN: The Royal Academy opens its grand retrospective today to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the French painter's birth. More than 90 of Poussin's most important paintings have been gathered together, from the delicate *Echo and Narcissus* (on loan from the Louvre) to his later, landscape-dominated work. More of the artist's magnificent creations can be seen at the Richard Pagan Gallery, which is hosting "Poussin"

at Art & Architecture. The Fats Waller musical show an evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song and dance. Theatre, Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (01-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Sat, 4pm.

ALICE'S ADVENTURES UNDER GROUND: Christopher Hampton does not go far under the skin of Lewis Carroll. Accompanied by Michael Malone and Iris Sessa Hana but the play's purpose is unclear.

Midwest, Colindale, South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Tonight: Jan 24, 7.30pm; mat, Sat, 2pm, 2.30pm.

THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE: Nigel Hawthorne enacting as the dishevelled Lord Copley but the director pretends and chronicles the play. Some clever supporting performances.

Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-484 5841). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Sat, 2.30pm.

DANGEROUS CORNER: Keith Butler directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser not to probe too deeply.

Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (01-867 1119). Opening tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Wed 3pm and Sat 5pm; until Mar 11.

FEVER PITCH: The one-man show adapted from Nick Hornby's best-selling account of a lifelong obsession. Some words are just incredible — with Arsenal FC. Stephen North takes us through 45 minutes each way.

Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (01-932 2132). Opening tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6.15 and 8.45pm.

GRIMM TALES: Tim Supple's superb staging of these really bloody, bloody tales. An amazing evening. Unforgettable.

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LA REINE MARGOT (18): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil. Director, Patrice Chéreau.

Curzon Mayfair (01-763 1729). Opening: Kensington (01-836 8659). Swiss Cottage (01-462 9149).

TOTALLY F*CKED UP: Debut, zero-budget experimental film shot by LA teenager David, Gregg Araki. RCA (01-730 3547).

CURRENT: AMATEUR (15): Amused, contemporary takes his place with a former nurse's help. Quirky, touching, pseudo-thriller from Hal Hartley, with Martin Donovon and Isabelle Huppert.

Bedford (01-638 8891). Clapham Picture House (01-462 3323). Ladbroke (01-462 3323). Swiss Cottage (01-462 9149). Rotten Row (01-837 8422). Richmond (01-837 8422).

THE NORTHERN INTERVIEW: A new play by Simon Gray. PREMIERS 14 FEBRUARY 1995.

ALBERT 01 382 1730 (01-382 1730). (Rings no fee).

CHEEK BY JOWL: "A Victorian Tragedy" by Simon Gray. PREMIERS 14 FEBRUARY 1995.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Before Rome, a scholarly view of a time in his work not typically treated: none of the pre-March 1624 era is in the RA's exhibit.

Elsewhere: BRIMMINGHAM: Mark Elder and Simon Holtz share the podium for tonight's celebratory CDOS Chorus 21st anniversary concert. Scottish Opera.

Bolton: Three of Alan Bennett's powerful and deeply funny monologues brought to the stage as Talking Heads: the anxious mother's boy, the

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MUSIC: The composer Pierre Boulez has lost none of his radical fire as he turns 70. Richard Morrison met him

Ringmaster to a greying avant-garde

It is lunchtime at the Barbican. Outside the conductor's room, London Symphony Orchestra players sit around looking slightly dazed. The morning has been spent unravelling the mysteries of Weber's Six Pieces, Op 6. After the break, Boulez may allow a little light relief — a spot of Bartók, Berg or Stravinsky, perhaps, or something exquisitely formed but fiendishly complex from his own pen.

All this the LSO will play under the batonless maestro's exacting direction in the next few days. Then they will play it again and again — in Paris, New York, Vienna and Tokyo. This is not a good spring for LSO players who don't like 20th-century music.

Meanwhile, the maestro polishes off a plate of smoked salmon, and puts the world to rights. Boulez is 70 in March, just about the oldest *enfant terrible* the musical world has ever known. And if the definition of an avant-garde superstar is the ability to generate huge clouds of hype and subsidy with few visible signs of public support, then he is still the superstar *sans pareil*.

Between now and June he will be ringmaster of a musical circus that will roll across three continents. It will embrace the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Boulez's own

Ensemble InterContemporain, as well as the LSO and such useful buddies as Barenboim, Rostropovich, Pollini, Mutter and Jessye Norman. It will be tied to a tight schedule of record releases from Deutsche Grammophon, for which Boulez is re-recording all the greatest timeless hits of our century (not quite his description).

“When you have some controversy in concert life, people come”

And the message of the whole parade? It is simply: “Happy birthday, Pierre.” Am I hunching with an egomaniac, then? As if to allay such suspicions, Boulez puts on a fine display of modesty. “For me, the main pleasure of the whole world is being able to repeat difficult programmes,” he asserts, not entirely convincingly.

His views are so famous that they could form a mantra for his disciples to recite before breakfast. Doubtless they do

just that at IRCAM, the underground laboratory which he founded in Paris to discover the music of the future (they are still searching). We know what Boulez thinks about opera houses (blow them up, except if he's conducting in one), period instruments (“phenomenon of a dying civilisation”), tunes and tonality (tired, populism [dangerous, can lead to fascism] and minimalism [rubbish]).

At least Boulez cannot be accused of wavering in his convictions. The 20th-century repertoire that he is playing with the LSO is exactly what he championed as conductor of the BBC Symphony and New York Philharmonic Orchestras in the early 1970s.

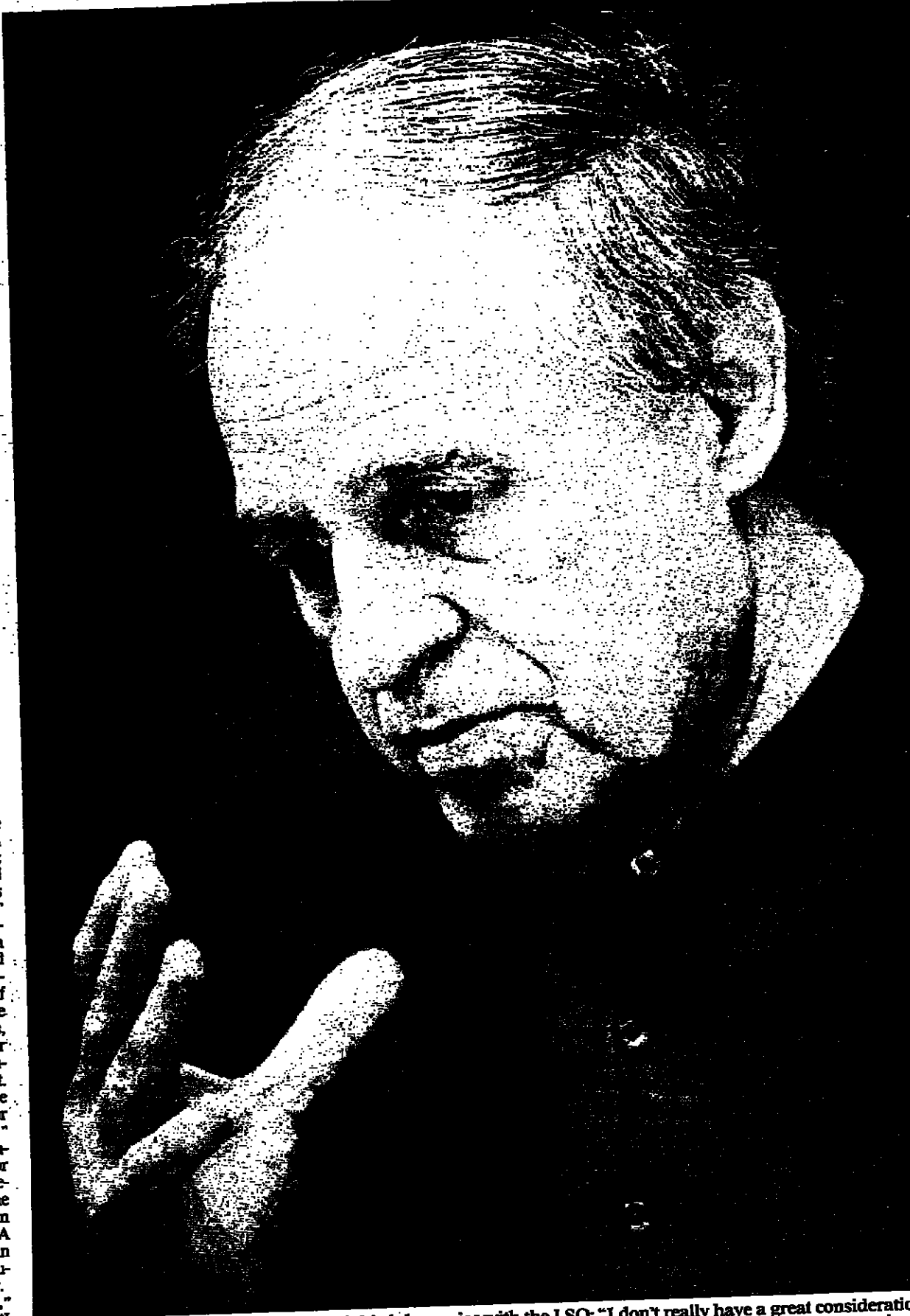
“Yes,” he agrees proudly, “I have not changed at all since 1945. I am very stable in my admirations because these are values you cannot deny. With all artists there is a hierarchy: if you ignore that, you fool yourself. A boulevard play is not the equal of Shakespeare.”

But have such serial composers as Schoenberg, Webern and of course P. Boulez served the musical public well? “Absolutely. If there is a lack of understanding I put the blame not exclusively on audiences, but also on performers. For many of them, the 20th-century practically does not exist. When great performers are adventurous — like Pollini or Abbado — everybody follows.”

Hang on, Pierre. Are composers not to blame at all for the great gulf of non-comprehension? What efforts did the avant-garde ever make to be in touch with its audience? “A composer doesn't try to be ‘in touch’ with an audience,” Boulez replies, a touch haughtily. “Some do, I persist. ‘Well,’ Boulez says disdainfully, “I don't really have a great consideration for them. Getting in touch with an audience is where reasoning, Whores are in touch every evening. For which I suppose they are to be admired.”

He laughs heartily at this *bon mot*. But isn't there a democratic principle involved here? After all, those IRCAM computers are paid for by French taxpayers. Boulez, however, sticks gleefully to his metaphor. “Yes, whores are part of democracy, at the lowest level,” he says. “Anyway, I never wanted to be unattractive. I tried to make programmes attractive, but with a very definite point of view. The BBC when I was there, with William Glock, is remembered as a very lively period, and the halls were not empty. When you have controversy, people come.”

That's true — or at least, it's true when Boulez is around. In the early 1970s I spent hours at the back of the BBC's Maida Vale studios, watching him coax stunningly lucid performances of his own music and other equally “difficult” modern scores from players who were, at that time, sceptical of



Pierre Boulez, at the Barbican for a 70th-birthday series with the LSO: “I don't really have a great consideration for composers who are ‘in touch with their audience’. Whores are ‘in touch with their audience’ every evening”

the intense Frenchman and his funny little hand signals. That must have been about the time that he was persuading President Pompidou to build IRCAM. Perhaps the greatest irony about Boulez is that he will probably be remembered more for his conducting and his musical-political cunning than for the compositions that initially brought him notoriety. That is not surprising. Thirty-odd pieces in a career of 50 years is not a great striking rate, especially since many bear the label “work in progress”. Why is that, incidentally?

“The pieces are not satisfying to me, and while they are not satisfying I have to work on them,” Boulez says. “Not every day; I am not obsessed with them. But always in a corner of my mind.” That must be some corner. *Visage Nuptial*, for example, was conceived in 1946 and reached its finished form in 1989.

Some critics would say that this is symptomatic of a composer who is moving in ever decreasing circles at the end of the cul-de-sac he entered when he created total serialism. That

was the austere musical system he championed from the early 1950s onwards, in which everything — pitch, rhythm, timbre, dynamics — was determined by a mathematical formula.

But this view of Boulez doesn't account for the rejuvenation apparent in recent works such as *Répons* and *explosante fixe*. These are pieces that genuinely proclaim the liberating effect of IRCAM's computers, as no other composer's work has yet been able to do.

Nevertheless, in recent years Boulez has been marginalised. Some would bristles at the thought. “It's very convenient to say that serious music has no future. It's a kind of invitation to laziness. But culture is like the legend of Sisyphus: the rock rolls down unless you keep on pushing it up. Each new generation must push it up, in its own way. Just as each generation must kill its parents,” Boulez pauses. “Sym-

bolically, of course.” Even a marginalised Boulez, I reflect, is a hundred times more potent than, say, a CD of monks' singing Gregorian chant. For half a century Boulez has worked with revolutionary zeal on every front — conducting, fund-raising, lobbying, composing, teaching — to bring about his vision of music's future. I happen not to share his vision, perhaps because I feel that music's social virtues are as important as its acoustical ones. But at least Boulez blazes his manifesto on his banner and plunges into battle.

“To preserve myself I have an ideal view of music,” he agrees. “If you don't, you are just working like a tailor, fulfilling commission after commission, and all the time losing your soul. I feel sorry for musicians who have lost their soul, because they have lost the best gift given to man: which is to have an idea.”

● Pierre Boulez's LSO series at the Barbican (071-438 8891) begins tonight (7.30pm) with a public conducting masterclass, then continues on Sunday and Jan 24, 26 and 29

JAZZ: A guitarist tries a different pitch

Sent off by the riff

Billy Jenkins
Vortex, N16

his approach with that of jazz “firemen” (“bastions of safety — hardworking, dependable, noble and kind”) who “douse flames, reassure”, and whose music, says Jenkins, is “no more relevant than aural macramé”.

Currently beginning a two-month Tuesday nights-only residency at the Vortex prior to a British tour, Jenkins is a striking figure with hair scraped up into the sort of top

knot usually seen in B-movies about Genghis Khan. He has taken football as his theme for the Vortex gigs, producing souvenir programmes, ending numbers with a whistle, even distributing slices of orange at half-time. Thus, after a blistering low version of the *Match of the Day* theme, Jenkins led his sextet into a selection of manic rumbas and demented tangos interspersed with hectic free passages and a good deal of humorous “business” involving yellow cards, apologies for “poor finishing”, and the like. As is customary at a Jenkins

gig, frantic, fractured but fundamentally respectable versions of jazz classics such as “Lester Leaps In” (rechristened “Leicester City Leaps In” for the occasion), and “Caravan” jostled with novelties such as “They built a ring road in my garden”.

A jokey vocal “Help me make it through the night” contained a superb, wonderfully plangent solo from Iain Ballamy. Monk's “Straight, No Chaser” received an intriguing ska treatment; a Collective original, “Brilliant” featured guitar riffs from “Sunshine Of Your Love” and “You Really Got Me”. If there was a musical or football gag to be made, Jenkins made it. Aural macramé it was not.

CHRIS PARKER

CONCERT

English airs and graces

The King's Consort
Wigmore Hall

THE seventh of the King's Consort's Purcell tercentenary concerts took its name from the centrepiece of the programme, “Laudate Ceciliam”, a Latin song made upon St Cecilia” drew together all the evening's vocalists and instrumentalists in the shortest, but by no means least, of Purcell's four celebratory Odes. James Bowman and Charles Daniels framed Michael George's solo as the saint was praised “with voices and organ”, and melted their voices one into the other for a gravely sensuous exhortation to the Marys.

The rest of the evening, in English, was wonderful proof of the inter-fertilisation of English weather and English verbal and musical languages. Here was the breeze, the capricious ebb and flow of English rhyme and rhythm counterpointing with musical time and tune in the short, subtly inflected setting of “We sing to him, whose wisdom form'd the ear”, sung with unfurled ease of movement by the young countertenor Robin Blaze.

James Bowman fine-tuned his countertenor to the gentle, irregular cadences of Purcell's *Evening Hymn*. The same trio of archlute (David Miller), chamber organ (Robert King) and bass violin (Jane Coe) which provided him with a secure yet balmy ground bass, empathised with soprano Susan Gritton in her searing performance of “The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation”.

In the dramatic scene “In guilty night”, Saul, Samuel and the Witch of Endor sow the seeds Britten was to reap in canticle and opera nearly 300 years later. Daniels, George and Gritton were the prime movers here. They were joined by Tessa Bonner, Mark Milhofer and Charles Pott for the Odes. “Raise, raise the voice” and “Welcome to all the pleasures” which began and ended a challenging and enriching evening.

HILARY FINCH

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Dregs of a memorable vintage

Hugh Thomas pays tribute to a fine writer, but doubts whether it was wise to publish his journals in full

Anthony Powell wrote these diaries when in the 1980s, says his wife Violet in the introduction. He found himself without a novel to write. Included in the book are several admirable studies of old friends, such as Evelyn Waugh, Cyril Connolly, Adrian Daintrey and Peter Quennell, though I believe that Powell unfairly dismisses Quennell's books about Byron as too bland, and is insensitive about Connolly's masterpiece, *The Unquiet Grave*. Younger friends or neighbours, such as Ferdinand Mount, Vidia Nigam, Anthony Quinton ('owner of a car'), the Anthony Hobsons, the Roy Jenkins and that exceptionally able diplomatist Lees Mayall, make luminous appearances. Powell reads a lot, old things and new, and he makes interesting comments on all sorts of writing from *Madame Bovary* to *Macbeth*.

There are some good stories, such as the tale of the middle-aged singer who, asked what he would like as a reward for performing at a memorial service to a recently dead nobleman, says that he would like "a woman. I have never had a woman." The affection which Powell has inspired in his family is obvious, and they seem to have been continuously kind to him. Evidently he was well looked after by Violet. Powell has lived happily in the country, usually a handicap for a writer, but perhaps that was made up for by occasional visits to London, often to see his dentist.

The trouble with the book derives from its honesty. Violet Powell writes in an introduction that the diaries are published as they were written without a word changed.

JOURNALS 1982-1986
By Anthony Powell
Heinemann, £20

That is all too obvious. The great novelist Powell might perhaps have used the words "quite nice" or "quite agreeable" about one or other of his minor characters in an early draft of a book, but he would surely have revised such dull labelling after a "re-read" a frequent Powellism in the diaries. Here, however, many characters are so described.

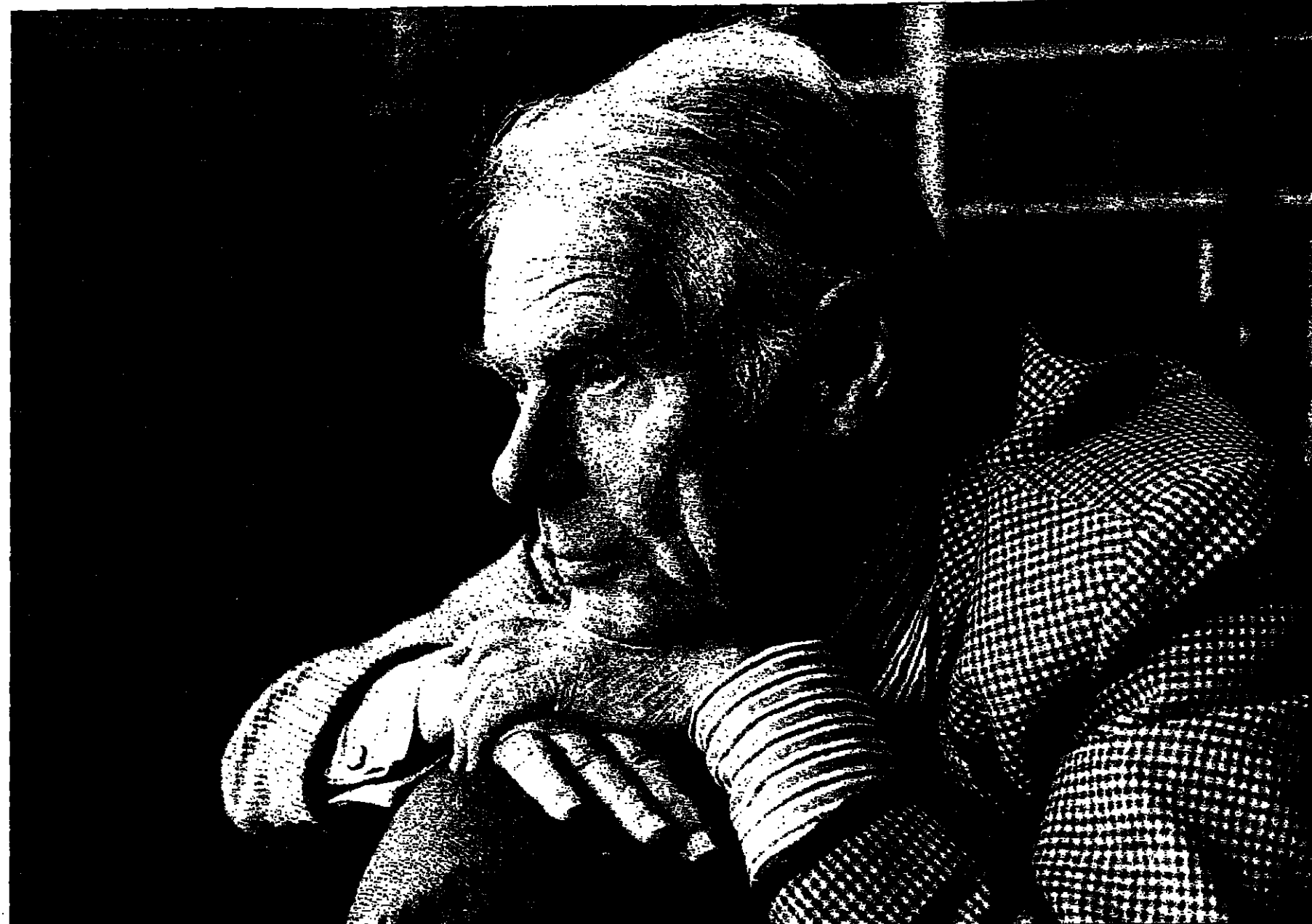
Thus Miriam Gross, Nicholas Shakespeare and Ludovic Kennedy are all in the awful "quite agreeable" category, the last named with the qualification "as such [i.e. BBC] types go". Alistair Horne is a "characteristic figure" of a "military type". Barbara Wadsworth is "quite pretty", and Rex Whistler appeared (this is recollection) as "probably quite a nice chap". Noel Blackiston is a "nice chap" without any such doubt expressed, while the Duke of Somerset is just "nice". Moira Fraser is "reasonably bright", Edna O'Brien "quite jolly", and "Spider" Quennell "very jolly". A dinner given for Powell's new novel by his generous publishers is dismissed as "quite a pleasant occasion". Powell's artistic judgment also seems to stretch only to saying that he had seen "quite a decent picture".

I know from personal experience of about half these people that these descriptions are inadequate. To talk thus of Miriam Gross or Moira Fraser is to show oneself curiously insensitive to charm.

Powell reserves full-blooded adjectives for wines. Here there are no "quites" and "nices": we hear instead of a "really superb" Chateau Picard or a "magnificent" Chateau Talbot (the index should have listed these grand names rather than those of human beings). The wine which seems to have most distressed poor Powell was a "decidedly dim" claret given him at a dinner in Downing Street by myself in peculiar circumstances: it was a Rioja.

Wine and people sometimes merge. Thus one has to read one passage twice before seeing that the "Jenkins Lator" (surprisingly drunk by Lord Gowerie on the occasion of Powell's 80th birthday — a good Powell touch) merely means a bottle given to Powell by Lord J. of Hillhead.

Though Powell's greatest work was obviously distantly inspired by Proust, the picture he presents of



Anthony Powell: perhaps the most ambitious English novelist of this century, some of his characters in *A Dance to the Music of Time* have entered into the language

himself here is of a very English writer. He never travels abroad. Even when he re-reads Flaubert, he does so in translation. So much for education at Eton in the 1920s.

I introduced Powell to one non-English writer in the 1980s, Mario Vargas Llosa, one of whose books he does buy and appreciate. But he thinks it mildly eccentric on my part to think well of Latin American novelists. The only other foreigner, I think, to appear is a Signorina Machiavelli, "of the family of the political philosopher who added such useful concepts to the subject". Powell considers Garcia Marquez "rot". That suggests incomprehension of an author who has insights into the nature of some things — love, for example — which are much deeper than Powell's.

For some reason, Powell thought Borges a great man, though confesses to being unable to read him.

Of political reflection incidentally, there is nothing here, and I don't think anything spiritual. Powell does confess to being drawn to Margaret Thatcher, but to her as an attractive woman, not as a political leader.

Powell was the most ambitious English novelist of the 20th century. In *A Dance to the Music of Time* he created a world (though it is not actually *le monde*). The last volumes of the series seemed weak in comparison with the earlier ones, unlike *Le Temps Retrouvé*. Proust's magnificent last vintage (the absurd metaphor is mine, but the thought might have been Powell's), yet the overall achievement was colossal. Many of the characters have passed into common parlance: Widmerpool in particular, but also the elusive String-

ham (the name taken from *The Wings of a Dove*, perhaps), as well as Gleggi and Umfraville. The scene where Widmerpool's wife breaks down into laughter at a funeral is a very good English scene.

"As in an Anthony Powell novel" is often used as an expression for meeting again in unexpected circumstances a friend of one's youth — for example, finding that the bishop reading prayers in the House of Lords on one's introduction as a peer beat one at school (my own experience). Powell also had a long and distinguished career as a book reviewer for *The Daily Telegraph*. But it was a mistake to publish these diaries, at least in this pure form.

Lord Thomas's latest book, *The Conquest of Mexico*, is now available in Pimlico paperback.

more written sources than Hamilton had at his disposal (though he uses many of Hamilton's interviews). He quotes plentifully, for instance, from the spittle letters of Lowell's first wife, Jean Stafford.

On the negative side, here is a writer who thinks nothing of using Lowell's accounts in poetry and prose directly to describe incidents from his life (a crass practice in biography); who splices his own undistinguished prose with fragments of Lowell's poetry (a show, say, is "a puritan pumpkin orange", who mistakes "flout" and "flaunt", "precipitous" and "precipitate"; who thinks a "brace of novels" can accommodate a tetralogy and still have room for more; and who writes manic episodes like a cartoon strip.

None of my old understandings of Lowell were touched by the book. He made himself a poet by sheer will, without necessarily much in the way of native gift (surely most great writers are prodigies?). He was lucky to die at 60 without having committed a murder (Mariani quotes from an unpublished poem about how he "reached at midnight for your windpipe" — note the horrible consequence of the note). He was blessed or rewarded — by exceptionally caring and committed friends. The Italian poet Eugenio Montale's line holds true: *Occorrono troppe vite per farne una* (too many lives are needed to make one). In Lowell's case, it was worth it.

Michael Hofmann
LOST PURITAN
A Life of Robert Lowell
By Paul Mariani
Norton, £24

rhythms of a literary life, writing, publication and being reviewed, on top of Lowell's other cycle of manic depression, felt occasionally wearisome. In America it was claimed that Hamilton lacked a proper grasp of Lowell's class background — an odd thing to say about an Englishman. But that was probably more to do with Hamilton's irreverent and *déjà vu* stance as a biographer.

Mariani, who has already written the lives of Berryman and William Carlos Williams, would like his Lowell to replace Hamilton's, but I don't see why it should. It told me, in 500 pages, nothing of substance that I didn't know; it is soft and evasive in its literary judgments, and, curiously, it falls into a joshing tone not a million miles from Hamilton anyway. On the plus side, he is able to draw on

Rescuing a reputation from poetic injustice



Lowell in 1960: undeservedly out of fashion, but due for revival

time, there will be a reappraisal. I hope that not only anthology pieces from *Life Studies* (1959) and *For the Union Dead*, but the poems of the late sixties and early seventies will be "rediscovered": the irregular "sonnets" of *Notebook, History and For Lizzie and Harriet*.

There has already been one life of Lowell, by the English poet and critic Ian Hamilton, who knew

Lowell a little and gave on the whole a satisfactory account. I wish he had allowed himself to appear in it — Lowell's genius, it seems to me, is the personal reminiscence of a public figure, often in prose. His pieces on fellow-writers like Tate, Ransom and Jarrell, candenced and witty miniatures stuffed with Homeric detail, are the best introduction to his work, and the cyclical

Reflections on mass murder in the cathedral

IT SEEMS extraordinary that when publishing houses can afford advances of up to £500,000 for established authors like Martin Amis, they have so little spare cash for the new young novelists they should simultaneously be nurturing. John de Falbe is one of these. *The Glass Night* is his third book and the third to have been rejected by mainstream publishers despite the efforts of his literary agent.

That this should not have been the case is a view held by the

novelist William Boyd who read and liked the manuscript and provided the encouragement necessary for de Falbe to submit to publishers in the first place. There has also been critical acclaim from Dirk Bogarde. But apart from some contradictory advice about how parts of it might be rewritten, there was little interest in the book from the publishing houses themselves, and so de Falbe decided to publish himself.

The Glass Night is about the nature of reflection. Ostensibly it is a tale told by an older man to a younger one: a letter from a father to a son. But the story of Dan Flasch intertwines past and present, and indeed the narrative starts not at the beginning but at the end. The tale is prompted by a near fatal accident which leaves Flasch's future daughter-in-law in a coma. Her loss of consciousness forces Flasch to examine his own.

Tanya Sillem
THE GLASS NIGHT
By John de Falbe
Cuckoo Press, £7.99
paperback original

and to take a very personal journey down memory lane.

Rescued from Nazi Germany by an English friend of his Jewish family, Flasch is brought as a baby to wartime Coventry. Although his ethnicity is never denied, his upbringing is culturally Christian and his parents are never far. So the retrieval of memory somehow serves only to dislocate the present, rather than provide an explanation for it. Nevertheless he is driven on by a compulsion to search out elements of his past, which "lie across the memory of... childhood like a streak of impurity in a pane of glass".

Flasch's childhood is traced against the outline of the shattered city of Coventry. Indeed, it is the city which provides the metaphorical architecture for Flasch's mind. A "chorus of steel-lung echoes" he hears in the cathedral "slice across each other from six corners" of his own memories. Playing as a child in the ruins of the cathedral, he remembers being caught short and urinating on the altar. He is caught and humiliated by a priest, but not before the irony of the situation has had time to dissipate. That Coventry was never to rise again like a phoenix from the ashes was perhaps a possibility that had already made an impression on the young mind.

The possibility of divine intervention is also paramount. As if by a miracle, the cathedral is rebuilt with its famous stained glass "almost transcending the interest of their subjects".

Flasch reconstructs his own past from the shards of glass shattered in the Kristallnacht of Nazi persecution, from which he was miraculously rescued. But just as a looking glass might produce a reverse image, the reflection he finds may, like a slip of the typewriter, be more false than Flasch.

The Glass Night has already sold 800 copies even before its official publication date of February 6th. This means that de Falbe, who paid for the printing and typesetting himself, is well on his way to breaking even. As other self-published authors like Roddy Doyle (the first edition of *The Commitments*) and Jill Paton Walsh (*Knowledge of Angels*) concluded, there is no point in asking publishers to do what can so easily be done by the writers themselves.

Tanya Sillem is a reporter and presenter for Channel 4 News.

Too hairy by half for the Tories

Sarah Johnson

SPEAKING MY MIND
By Rhodes Boyson
Peter Owen, £24.50

Senior at Sir Rhodes Boyson if you like fellow MPs call him Wackford Squeers, but if anything were needed to prove that snobbery is the curse of the Conservative Party, his consistent failure over 20 years to use properly this valuable convert from old-fashioned socialism would suffice.

"Most Conservatives are smooth men," wrote Hugo Young, putting his finger on Boyson's big problem, "but Dr Rhodes Boyson is a hairy man." (Boyson's trademark: his mutton-chop whiskers, are a kind of duelling scar: he grew them as his side of a bargain with his sixth formers, who promised in return to cut their long hair.)

When in the early 1960s he was headteacher of Robert Montefiore School (an East End secondary modern with Christian, Jewish and Muslim pupils), Boyson knew what school assemblies were really for: "Giving a school unity, and to show staff and pupils that 100 per cent discipline is possible." That old Etonian, the Archbishop of York, could learn something from him.

Boyson solved the multi-faith problem by agreeing with local religious leaders on "twelve hymns which were basically all in praise of the one God". He hung these on giant panto-style song-sheets, and marked out the floor "like a parade ground". Next morning the school was "shellshocked" to find itself not only lining up, filing into assembly and singing hymns, but also praying together. "I had not allowed at this stage for a small minority who prostrated themselves and knocked their neighbours over," admits Boyson.

Earlier, at his first secondary modern in Lancashire, he improved morale beyond recognition by introducing exam courses (long before the CSE was introduced) — complete, of course, with prize-giving ceremonies. He thought deeply and widely about education and social issues, managing to fit an MA and a PhD into his spare time as a young headmaster and father.

He came to a newly built north London comprehensive, Highbury Grove, in 1967 and turned it into a grammar school in all but name and intake. He exposed the flaws of comprehensive schools as promoted by the Inner London Education Authority, such as the iniquitous banding system that prevented his school from taking its fair share of boys from the top three ability bands. In the early 1970s he was a co-editor of the "Black Papers" which attacked the progressive education establishment that had quietly taken over schools since the war.

If this energetic and experienced headteacher had been made Education Secretary in 1986, succeeding the late Sir Keith Joseph, we would have been spared the expensive disaster of the national curriculum. Instead of being shunted sideways to Social Security, Northern Ireland, and Local Government, he might even



Boyson: a rough diamond

words, of course, indicating that while Boyson could be relied on to do the dirty work, one couldn't imagine the fellow actually sitting in the officers' mess, could one? This despite the fact that the highly-educated Boyson had successfully run three schools.

As, during his two years as a junior minister responsible for schools, Boyson seems to have spent a disproportionate amount of time saving individual schools. The battle lines were drawn up, in his mind, as "the little platoon of politicians" and the "big battalions of the officials". "There was an accepted official orthodoxy on almost every item," he writes ruefully. He wanted to push back — comprehensive education, which he considers particularly unfair on "able working class boys" (Boyson tends to forget about girls); most of all he longed to get the idea of education vouchers accepted. Nothing came of it.

Wherever two or three parents are gathered together, schools are discussed, usually in tones of anguish, but there are too few interesting books about education. Boyson's memoir is one such. It reminds us what good state school heads can be like.

Sarah Johnson has reported on education for The Times, The Daily and Sunday Telegraph.

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The great arsenal of the imagination

A HEFTY trio of books on aspects of American art neatly combines to demonstrate the beguiling, seductive and maddening character of that protean country in general, and its visual art in particular. One characteristic is that when issues are taken up, they are explored with a thoroughness that can border on the megalomaniac and destructive, worried and chewed over to death.

Such is the tone edited by Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard, *The Power of Feminist Art* (TPOFA for short), with its wholly irritating subtitle, *Emergence, Impact and Triumph of the American Feminist Art Movement* (Thames & Hudson, £39.95). Emergence, impact and triumph indeed, all of which have gone virtually undetected on this side of the Atlantic. It is true that in the hunt for female artists in history, unjustly neglected and forgotten figures have re-emerged (alas, far fewer than we might have hoped) and others, such as Angelica Kauffman RA, have been re-

evaluated. But no feminist ethos, ethic and aesthetic has emerged on the main stage. Rather, and this is success of a sort, more contemporary female artists have come to prominence — and perhaps more significantly achieved some financial success. But only one woman has yet won the Turner Prize, and how many have had retrospectives in the major galleries of Europe and North America? And do we have a larger proportion of significant women artists now than at the turn of the century?

That something did, however, need to be done is exemplified by a little episode in 1977. On my way to visit a pioneering exhibition solemnly and accurately called *Women Artists 1550-1950*, then on

at the Brooklyn Museum, I met Sir John Pope-Hennessy, who, sootied with incredulity, the exhibition, I already knew, had had great difficulty in finding appropriate venues, and had begun in the then innovative Los Angeles County Museum.

Pope-Hennessy made no secret of his acute, almost painful disdain: it was, he said, an exhibition of women's art put on by suspect troublemakers (Professor Linda Nochlin and Ann Sutherland Harris); such a project would never grace a real museum (that is, his, the Metropolitan). In fact, the show changed the way art done by artists who are (also) women was seen, as well as being a valuable expansion of that most blinkered of subjects, art history. Despite the growth of women's studies, women's art is still denied status as subject matter.



Self-Portrait by Alice Neel

TPOFA is a bitter, weighty, feisty book, hoist at times by its own belligerence, but it is a fully detailed account of a necessary engagement against *de facto* seg-

regation. But many women have adopted the very methods they decry, operating as far as they can with special conditions in segregated workshops — with names such as *Womanspace* and the like. It is time for all sides to desegregate. This compilation, however, will only preach to the converted.

Books on American art abound, but are usually only appreciated by Americans, unless they are monographs on the postwar stars of Western art whom Europeans adore (sometimes even before the USA). Edward Lucie-Smith has a superb track record for finding subjects that are crying out for erudite popularisation.

His *American Realism* (Thames & Hudson £29.95), is no exception: the range is enormous, he mixes the familiar with the unfamiliar, producing an overview of American history as well

as art history, and enabling us to look at artists from Edward Hopper to Jasper Johns anew. And yes, there are women — Jane Freilicher and Isabel Bishop to name but two, but not, surprisingly, that wonderful American realist painter, Catherine Murphy. The book takes us on a journey that somehow encompasses both Thomas Eakins, the great 19th-century painter of modern life, and Jeff Koons, commodity broker turned voyeuristic creator of kitsch.

LUCIE-SMITH'S implicit insistence on the robust quality of American realism perhaps minimises the almost mystical feeling for landscape and light felt and articulated by many of the artists he discusses. But he does draw attention to the melancholy and nostalgia that is just as American as native exuberance. He makes

the reader want to go and see more for himself.

Impressionist New York by William S. Gerdts (Abbeyville/John Murray, £30) serves both as an evocation of the lively city at the turn of the century, a fascinating history of social mores and manners, and an introduction to a host of painters loved in America and hardly known anywhere else. With such figures as the ever-inventive Childe Hassam, there is an interesting overlap with and welcome discussion of some who are unaccountably missing from Lucie-Smith's survey, such as Maurice Prendergast. Moreover, there is a succinct account of the reception of French impressionism in New York, and its influence on succeeding generations of figurative painters. But this is largely a visual celebration of the city, and while mostly in paint, outstanding photographers such as Edward Steichen and Alvin Langdon Coburn are also happily included.

MARINA VAIZEY

Stella Tillyard acclaims the anguished historian whose golden prose transmuted the horrors of war into an enduring work of art

Words as powerful as the sword

William Napier's *History of the War in the Peninsula and in the South of France from the year 1807 to the year 1814* is one of those works that both transform a genre and exert a continuing influence on the way we think and read about a subject. Napier invented a vocabulary and a style for war-writing that entered the imagination of his own age and permeated the collective memory. After Napier, generations of English speakers thought about war in his words, and yet, beyond the ranks of military historians and enthusiasts, the man and his history are little known: few of us are aware that we think war through, or against, him. This reprint of his masterpiece gives us all the chance to go back to the fount of fine writing about mankind's most foul activity.

Tutored by Paul Fussell's classic *The Great War and Modern Memory*, we are accustomed to think of the 1914-18 war as the great literary conflict. But listen to this, from the end of Napier's third volume, a description of the counter-attack by the British infantry against the almost-victorious French at the battle of Albuera in 1811: "Such a gallant line, issuing from the midst of the smoke, and rapidly separating itself from the confused and broken multitudes, started the enemy's heavy masses which were increasing and pressing onward as to an assured victory: they wavered, hesitated, and then vomiting forth a stream of fire, hastily endeavoured to enlarge that front, while a fearful discharge of grape from all their artillery whistled through the British ranks... the fusilier [sic] battalions, struck by the iron tempest, reeled and staggered like sink-

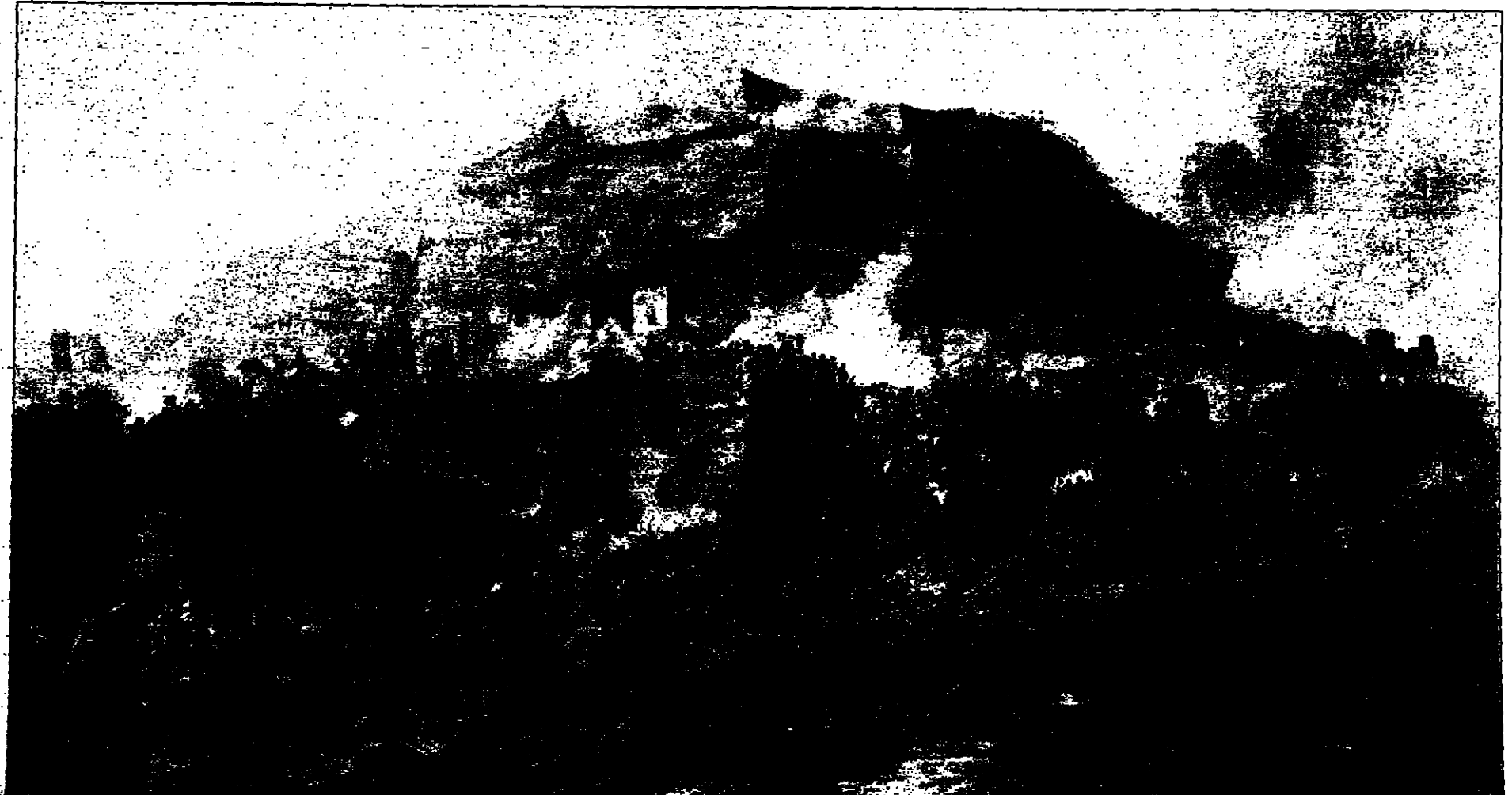


Napier hid his misery

ing ships. But suddenly and sternly recovering, they closed on their terrible enemies; and then was seen with what a strength and majesty the British soldier fought."

Nothing could be more literary: this was the language, enshrined and debased in propaganda and imperialist prose; that, a hundred years later, Owen and Sassoon tried to destroy. They were only partly successful. Napier's Frenchmen "vomiting forth a stream of fire" were banished from high literature, but they live to this day in the pages of action novels and the games of schoolboys.

Napier's *History* was not instantly recognised as the classic it eventually became. In 1823 the writer was a 38-year-old Peninsula veteran living a desultory semi-bohemian life on half-pay when he read Southey's *History of the Peninsular War*, which dealt harshly with the British general Sir John Moore. For Napier, Moore had been "our Sydney and our perfect man", a cultured career soldier who loved humanity and respected his men. He had served under Moore from 1803 to 1809 and took part in the retreat which ended with Moore's gruesome



The Storming of San Sebastian, August 31st 1813 by Denis Dighton, from Wellington's Regiments by Ian Fletcher (Spellmount, £28); standing left, General Sir James Leith

death at Corunna, and the hasty departure of the British army from the Peninsula.

Napier's wish to vindicate his general inspired him to authorship. "I was going to write a commentary, but I soon saw that to beat the false history I must write a true one," he wrote in 1839, as the last volume was going through the press. "The task was formidable, but I have done it. I have beaten the calumniators and established my history in the world's good opinion."

Napier's 4,000-page *History* is a brilliant chronicle of momentous events, a story of tactics, troop movements, marches, sieges and battles, gripping because Napier devised a prose that was suited to his treatment of the subject. Although Napier saw himself in a line of ancient war writers, Xenophon above all, who had used the alchemy of language to transmute the horrors of war into golden, but truthful, prose, there was no precedent in English history for his style, unless it were Gibbon. En-

lightenment thinkers had despised militarism and there was no major war novel written in English in the 18th century.

There is more than a hint of the Romantic poets in Napier's descriptive cadences. Scott provided something (although Napier disliked him), and the chivalrous romances he read as a boy a lot more. But the result was his own, and new to English writing about war.

Yet there is tension beneath the sublime. Napier understood that war could reveal the worst of humanity and

his private moments did not flinch from saying so. After the assault on the fortress of Badajoz in 1812, he wrote to his wife: "The town was most dreadfully plundered and the inhabitants murdered of all ages and sexes. The French were the only people to whom [the soldiers] gave quarter out of a spirit of honour not humanity. They even killed one another. Such is war and such the inducements I have to remain... I hate this life."

In the *History* this anguished personal voice is submerged, perhaps deliberately, in rhetorical brilliance. "Shameless rapacity, brutal intemperance, savage lust, cruelty and murder, shrieks and piteous lamentations, groans, shouts, imprecations, the hissing of fires bursting from the houses, the crashing of doors and windows and the reports of muskets used in violence, resounded for two days and nights in the streets of Badajoz." Language overwhelms horror, and war is turned into a work of art.

Napier managed to hide his private misery from readers, but his political beliefs shine through, spicing the narrative with anger and indignation. For Napier saw the war as purely political, and the Peninsula as merely the place where the principles of the French Revolution, embodied in Napoleon, were inexorably ground into the dust by the forces of an aristocracy commanded by Wellington and sustained by a corrupt British government.

About British governments of all hues Napier was unrelentingly scathing, and about Wellington, the dedicatee of the *History*, he maintained a

tortured ambivalence. Wellington was a man "of commanding intellect, commanding courage, commanding honesty", but "he despises the people. He cannot work with them because he will not work for them."

No such qualms sullied Napier's assessment of Napoleon — "that wonderful man" — and but for his professional commitment to the British Army and his residual monarchism, he could have wished that Napoleon had been the victor. Napoleon "cherished to the utmost the principle of equality, a sensible good producing increased satisfaction as it descends in the scale of society". Napier, too, campaigned for that principle, speaking for parliamentary reform, universal male suffrage and a fairer economic system.

Napier lived a life of tension and contradiction. He was a man of emotional and political extremes, liable to weep with rage at the poverty of the masses and the corruption of governments, and yet he served 60 years in an army which existed to underpin a political and social regime he

longed to dismantle. Bred by his soldier father to a profession of action, he spent most of his maturity as a writer, chronicling a struggle he only half believed in, and calling himself in derision, "a sayer in the presence of doers". Only at the very end did he come to feel that his words were as powerful as his sword. The

inscription on his monument in St Paul's Cathedral reads simply, "Historian of the Peninsular War".

Stella Tillyard's *Aristocrats* (Chanto) has just won the *History Book of the Year Award*. She is now working on *Soldiers*, a book about the men of the Napier family.

Why the kamikazes and wolf packs did not win

Few of the millions fighting the closing stages of the Second World War in Europe 50 years ago took much note of the news from the other side of the world. There, among the scattered islands and channels of the Philippines and the surrounding sea, Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, took place over four days and nights, October 23-26 1944. This account by Thomas Cullen, a retired US naval officer, reveals all the discipline and clarity of his first profession.

Leyte Gulf was a compound of naval history. The multitude of engagements included action as close as Salamis or Trafalgar, dreadnought to dreadnought gunnery duels as at Jutland, carrier to carrier battles at out-of-sight ranges,

Richard Hough

THE BATTLE OF

LEYTE GULF

By Thomas J. Cullen

HarperCollins, £18.95

STEALTH AT SEA

The History of

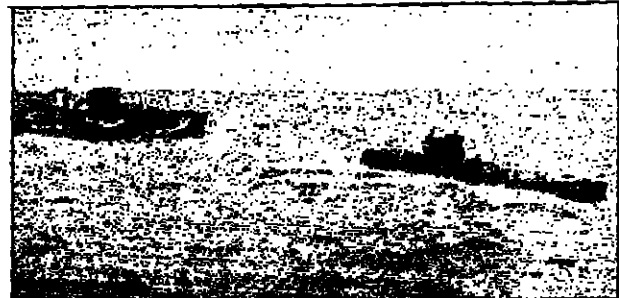
the Submarine

By Dan van der Vat

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

when wind direction and speed again became a factor in naval fighting, as in the days of the Armada. One American carrier group lost touch with its adversary because of the need to reverse course in order to fly off its planes against the wind.

Leyte was primarily a battle of air power. The Americans had a decisive advantage in numbers and quality of aircraft and air crew. Japanese pilots were thrown into action after a few hours' instruction, some as kamikazes: the Americans were all picked men, superbly trained. Thousands of sailors and airmen went down on both sides, but the outcome was never in doubt.



HMS Easton approaching a U-boat after the "kill" 1943

An aptly-titled study of the submarine and submarine warfare, *Stealth at Sea* is the most comprehensive work of its kind since the American, John Holland, conceived the genesis of the modern submarine at the turn of the century. Holland's submarine was of 140 tons, but many of the design principles can be identified in the giant Soviet "Typhoon" class of 18,500 tons.

Holland, a pro-Persian and fanatical English-hater, was motivated by the desire for a weapon to sink British battleships, but as it turned out, one of his best customers was the Royal Navy itself. Both French and English navies were seduced by the idea of a £10,000

weapon that might sink a warship costing half a million. Ironically, as Anglo-German naval rivalry increased, the creator of the German *Kriegsmarine*, Tirpitz, decided "Germany has no need of submarines", while Britain's "Jacky" Fisher beseeched Winston Churchill, "BUILD MORE SUBMARINES!"

When war came in 1914 Britain had a submarine fleet of 75, against Germany's 28; two of the latter were lost before recording a success. Then, even when one small U-boat sank three British armoured cruisers in less than one hour, the Germans failed to appreciate what a lethal weapon they possessed.

More than 11 million tons of shipping were sunk by U-boats in 1914-18, but the lessons learnt then were not all immediately applied in 1939.

Dan van der Vat, a leading naval historian, needs a clear head and a keen eye to weave the threads of this account of the development of German unrestricted undersea warfare which brought the Allies closer to catastrophe than any land campaign.

The author's keenness even leads him to a thread too many: he deviates from submarine warfare to surface campaigns where his accuracy is not so faultless. It is simplistic to state that Beatty "blundered badly" at Jutland, or that British battleships were inferior to their German equivalents. However, it is interesting to learn that, following the sinking of German ships and dogs in London, Americans were booed as cowards in the theatres and restaurants.

That was before 128 of them went down in one liner, and the "Lusitania factor" drew the USA closer to declaring war.

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Commercialism tarnishes day of evocative cricketing ideals

Celebration game fuels burgeoning nostalgia

Alan Lee visits Sunbury, Victoria, where there is a burning desire to prove that the Ashes originated

CURIOUS events occurred in this Australian country town yesterday, most of them designed to persuade those following the wretched path of this winter's cricket that they had strayed into a land of fantasy. They began with England batting so well that most of their players felt obliged to retire and ended with David Gower, still the rightful captain in the misty eyes of the game's romantics, being presented with the Ashes.

Sadly, the entire production satisfied no exotic delusions, only the burgeoning demand around Australia for celebrity cricket. If it bore not the faintest relation to the serious business of the winter, however, it was anything but a flippant exercise to the obsessive folk behind the match.

There are those in the state of Victoria whose purpose in life, these past few years, has been to prove that the Ashes were originated on the site of yesterday's game, following a country-house match of doubtless similar levity on a hot Christmas Eve in 1882.

There have been such conflicting claims over how, why and where the urn came into being that the latest Wisden states: "The certain origin of the Ashes is the subject of some dispute." This was not good enough for the proud citizens of Sunbury, 30 miles outside Melbourne, and seven years of meticulous research by an historian, Joy Munn, has apparently given them the evidence they sought.

Mrs Munn's book, *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, attempts to prove the theory that the legendary burning of the ball took place at a dinner party at Rupperswood, the Sunbury home of the then president of the Melbourne Cricket Club, Sir William Clarke. It is said that this followed a match between the touring England team and a local side, and that it was Lady Clarke who presented the ashes to the England captain, Hon Ivor Bligh.

No effort has been spared to authenticate this version. Mrs Munn claims sources ranging from direct descendants of the Clarks through to a man in the public transport office who managed to discover an

unlisted train had passed through the area on the day in question, allegedly carrying the England players.

It is a romantic tale and a pleasingly persuasive one, even in its incompleteness. Whatever official support may be forthcoming, Sunbury has no reservations and yesterday's celebratory fixture between Gower's England XI and Allan Border's Australians may now be repeated each four years.

Yesterday, its only strict connection with the tour was the presence in the England XI of two original and two stand-by members of the party. For one of these, it was a significant day. Alec Stewart had not played since having his right index finger broken, for the second time, on Boxing Day.

Stewart made an unbeaten fifty, which was the order of a day when only two wickets were taken, and retired well pleased. He is on target for next week's fourth Test and will play in the four-day game against Victoria which starts in Bendigo tomorrow. Neil Fairbrother is discounted by injury and Joey Benjamin is likely to play to save Angus Fraser having three games in rapid succession.

But Shaun Udal's tour is over. The Hampshire spinner has become the fourth England player to have his winter curtailed by injury and he will fly home today because of a torn muscle in his left side. Martin McCague, Craig White and Darren Gough have already come home.

The public response to the Bendigo game, at this far-end of a disarming tour, may be poor. It will certainly not rival the scenes at Sunbury. The gates of what is now Salesian College were shut before lunch with 15,000 people inside and they were as diverse an audience as can ever have watched a game of cricket.

There were the corporates in suits and ties, mostly guests of the bewildering list of 55 sponsors named in the match programme. There were actors in period costume, a wheeze of the local theatrical society. And, unfortunately, there were representatives of the Barny Army, who proved



Gower shows that he has not lost his touch with a glorious six over mid-wicket

that even country-house cricket is not beyond the scope of the yob by disrupting the end of the game disgracefully.

Much of the day was impressive. The players were taken from Melbourne by steam train, a genteel experience until they were hustled off at Sunbury with a dire warning that the Sydney express was due. The parade to the ground found Chick with a welcome banner out and the marquee and vast temporary stands created a remarkable stadium out of a

Victorian gentleman's back garden.

But other things were not easy to digest. The event had been pitched at such a level that 10,000 spectators were needed to break even and the outcome was rampant commercialism inappropriate to the theme's evocative ideals.

It also seemed absurd that a game mainly involving retired players should be screened all day on national television with the captains and batsmen wired for sound. Perhaps one should not wonder when Australia's TV ratings for last

week show the No 1 position occupied, not by soap opera, but by England's exit from the World Series Cup.

What yesterday's turnout did prove is that the market for nostalgia matches is huge. There will soon be a seniors cricket circuit, much as there already is in golf and tennis, and the first Veterans' World Cup, to be held in Bombay in March, is just one more step along the road.

ENGLAND IN VICTORIA, PROBABLY: M. Atherton, G. Gough, G. Hogg, G. Thorpe, A. Stewart, J. Gower, S. Udal, P. Doolan, A. Fraser, J. Benjamin, D. Malcolm, P. Tait.

Confidence floods back as sponsors retain faith in athletics

By David Powell
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH athletics received another considerable vote of confidence yesterday when it was announced that TSB had agreed to spend £4 million to back the sport over the next two years. This follows the announcement, on Monday, that Mazda Cars would be putting in £500,000, becoming the first new six-figure sponsor since the spate of failed drugs tests by British athletes last summer.

The value of TSB's support will be something less than £4 million because it includes hidden costs, such as the commission to Alan Pascoe Associates, the British Athletics Federation's marketing agency, which negotiated the deal. However, it is further evidence that sponsors believe that British athletics has the capacity to deliver many more sunny days than cloudy ones.

That outlook applies as much to events such as the English schools track and field championships as it does to Britain's world champion athletes. TSB's past sponsorship has been marked by its support for English schools events, and the bank will continue to pay heavily into schools athletics in England, Wales and Scotland.

First evidence of the new deal will be TSB's sponsorship of the British team kit in the indoor international against Russia in Birmingham on January 28. Colin Jackson will be the main attraction, running in the 60 metres and 60 metres hurdles.

Solomon Wariso, the first British track international to return after failing a drugs test, has been left out on the strength of his 200 metres defeat by Darren Braithwaite in the Birmingham New Year Games on January 1. Braithwaite will partner John Regis at the distance.

RESULTS: 60m: C. Jackson (Great), M. Regis (Ireland), 200m: J. Regis (Great), D. Braithwaite (Ireland), 400m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 600m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 800m: C. Wainwright (Wales), 1,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 1,500m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 2,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 2,500m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 3,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 3,500m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 4,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 4,500m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 5,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 5,500m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 6,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 6,500m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 7,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 7,500m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 8,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 8,500m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 9,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 9,500m: S. Wariso (Kenya), 10,000m: S. Wariso (Kenya).

WOMEN: 60m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 100m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 200m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 400m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 800m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 1,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 1,500m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 2,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 2,500m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 3,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 3,500m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 4,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 4,500m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 5,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 5,500m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 6,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 6,500m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 7,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 7,500m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 8,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 8,500m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 9,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 9,500m: S. Douglas (S. Africa), 10,000m: S. Douglas (S. Africa).

Warning for supporters over forgeries

By David Hands, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE rugby unions of Ireland and England warned yesterday that 4,000 forged tickets may be circulating for the five nations' championship match between the countries at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

After a tip-off to the Greater Manchester Police, several hundred forgeries were seized in Leeds this week, all of them allowing entrance to the terraced area of Ireland's ground. According to Rugby Football Union (RFU) officials, they were excellent imitations, even incorporating the hologram that is one of the security features used by the Irish Rugby Football Union.

"The most obvious difference people should check, if they have not acquired tickets from an authorised outlet, is the serial number of the ticket in the top left-hand corner, which, on the forgeries, is more widely spaced, the fourth and last digit coming under the 'H' of Irish Permanent, the name of the sponsoring firm," Richard Ankersen, the RFU ticket officer, said.

Ireland are seeking a third successive victory over England. Philip Browne, the IRFU's administrative secretary, said: "We could have sold the game twice over and people out there are unscrupulous enough to try and forge tickets. Forgeries are so sophisticated now they are becoming much harder to detect, but we have been able to do so because of the security features built in to our tickets."

The authorities fear a safety problem if several thousand people holding forged tickets should swamp a restricted area. The RFU will wait until the first match at Twickenham, against France on February 4, in case it, too, has a problem nearer home.

Michael Bradley has withdrawn from the match after the death last weekend of his first-born child. The Ireland captain and scrum half agonised for several days over the decision and yesterday Noel Murphy, the Ireland manager and Bradley's father-in-law, said: "It has been a traumatic experience and I think he has made the right decision."

The captaincy passes to Brendan Mullin, in his 47th international, and Niall Hogan, of Terenure College, wins his first cap in the most difficult of circumstances.

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Simon Geoghegan

IRELAND

INVITE Don Rutherford, the technical director of the England team, to nominate Ireland's most significant player and he will instantly point to Simon Geoghegan. A wing? How can a player on the periphery be a potential match-winner?

In Geoghegan's case, it is inspiration. He raises the pulse, creating such expectation whenever the ball is in his hands that crowds, whether at Bath or at Landowne Road, hum with pleasure as he gallops in his awkward, stabbing runs round and through opponents.

It is not only crowds who respond to the London-based solicitor; his team-mates do, too. Geoghegan, 26, is a rarity in the modern game, a one-off who does not conform to expectation, even though, at Bath, he is playing for a club where the emphasis is on the team as family; the team predominate over the individual. You would not base textbooks on his approach to wing play, but that you would not hold up Dean Richards as a model to aspiring No 8s, either.

The bigger stage, the more splendidly Geoghegan performs. He plucks support from the air, milking applause for his team, creating optimism and, when more, scoring points. Two of his seven international tries have been against

England, one against each Underwood brother; he is no respecter of reputations. He may have learnt that speaking his mind is not always the way to universal popularity — in 1993, he was almost dropped from the Ireland squad — but he has never ceased to be forthright on the field, and the Irish love him for it. It is as though he is an expression of the essential optimism of a whole people, and, with such a potent weapon on their flank, this season the Ireland selectors are determined not to neglect it.

They have picked a running stand-off half and restored their most decisive centre to point Geoghegan, where the enemy is most vulnerable. Would-be tacklers must stop him first time because they are unlikely to get a second chance. He claims he has learnt to be patient, acknowledging that the ball will not always come his way, but you would never think it as his face contorts with concentration, effort or just pure frustration that he is not where the action is.

And there is, of course, the blind mop. Blindies have all the fun, the saying goes, and Geoghegan is the embodiment of that. He is a blindie, he leads and his colleagues follow. To hell with the saying, the blindie is for the winning.

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Five shining lights can show teams the way to go



Whatever the strengths of rugby union as a team sport, each country still contains individuals who are capable of providing essential inspiration.

David Hands, rugby correspondent, picks the pivotal player from each of the nations



Philippe Benetton

FRANCE

The more players in the team, the greater the mutual dependency. In rugby union, it may be the wing threequarter who flashes over in the corner for the try, or the goal-kicker whose touchline conversion wins enduring fame, but their opportunities result from the work of others.

"The object of the game," as the sage said, "is for 14 players to work space for the fifteenth." But even within that chain, invariably one or two players are outstanding. In fortunate times, a national side may be blessed, as Wales were during the 1970s, with half-a-dozen players whose world class is generally acknowledged: when Australia could field a back division comprising Farr-Jones, Lynagh, Horton, Little and Campese in their prime, few would bet against them.

Not one of the five nations whose 1995 championship begins on Saturday would claim so great an array of talent, yet all will hope for the critical decision-maker to emerge during the next two months. England, for example, include four players who have made more than 50 appearances, an accumulation of experience that should serve them well in times of need. But it is not always possible to

identify beforehand the player on whom a game may turn.

Who would have thought, for example, that Keith Jarrett would have made such a debut for Wales in 1997? Few Welshmen thought he should be playing full back against England, fresh out of school, he was a centre if anything, his knowledge of full-back play almost nothing. Yet his quality proved inspirational. He scored 19 points against an England team good enough to score 21 of its own, but still it lost 34-21.

All five countries boast their Jarretts, yet a player need not appear on the score-sheet to provide the game's turning point. An inspirational presence may be sufficient, an heroic tackle that staves off defeat, a tactical appreciation that nullifies an apparent advantage. Scotland, under David Sole, calling the back-row move from the scrum after England's mistake in 1990, Gavin Hastings kicking high and Tony Stanger claiming the try that ensured the grand slam.

This season will be no different. Through the swings and roundabouts of the ten championship games, the play-makers will appear, sometimes visible for all to see, sometimes recognised only by their own colleagues.

THE ways of French selectors have, historically, been a closed book on occasions to their opposite numbers across the Channel. Locks as props, props as hookers, No 8s as locks, stand-off halves as wings — players slip from one position to another like eels, not always to best effect but sometimes creating the utmost havoc for less imaginative opponents.

Selection is a more settled exercise now under the rigorous Pierre Berbizier, but he, too, has his moments. It has, for example, taken some time for him to decide where best to play Philippe Benetton, the Agen flanker, who has become, over the past two years, probably the most valued member of the back row.

The presence of Benetton is complementary to the pace of Laurent Cabannes and the power of Abdelatif Benazzi, a back row that has taken time to bring together but that was integral in defeating New Zealand — twice — on tour last year. Benetton has become the steady factor, the controller, the hand on the tiller at No 8.

Benetton was fortunate as a young man to come into an Agen side that boasted the likes of Sella and Berbizier, Dubroca and Erbani. In such an environment, he was

bound to learn quickly and, at the end of his first senior season, in 1988, he appeared in a championship final against Toulon. A year later, he made his first senior tour, played his first international (against the British Isles in Paris) and is now the only player in the squad who has made every significant tour of the past four years. Yet that was as a flanker; now, for club and country, he has changed to No 8 to such effect that one of France's sporting newspapers proclaimed him the player of the season last summer.

Berbizier sought control, sought judgment and decision-making from the No 8 position and he found Benetton. He did so, moreover, when the player, now 26, was maturing, learning that furious activity at all times was not necessarily conducive to consistent play.

There may be bigger players in France — Benazzi, of course, is one of them and is as accustomed to No 8 as he is to lock and now blind-side flanker — but not with the same degree of skill and precision about their game. At 6ft 3in and 15st, Benetton's contribution is in his speed of support and the strength of his tackle. His colleagues may draw the eye more frequently, but, if they do, be sure that it is Benetton oiling the wheels that make them roll.



Derwyn Jones

WALES

THERE have always been lineout leapers in Wales. Maybe they are forgotten sometimes amid the riot of back play that was — and may one day be again — the talk of the Principality, but those backs owe their being to the forward providers, men such as Roy John, Rhys Williams, Brian Price, Allan Martin and Robert Norster.

Into that company this season has stepped Derwyn Jones. Can you compare a recently developed lock with only one cap to players who are the stuff of legend? You can when he is 6ft 10in and the tallest man to play for his country. This is the first man to play for his country. Wales have of the giant, and, in Jones, Wales have discovered their own Goliath who will put them on terms with other nations more blessed with feet and inches.

Jones, like his opposite number in England, Martin Bayfield, has worked for his corn. It may be coincidence that the two are policemen, but they have applied themselves furiously to the learning curves a succession of coaches have placed before them to become more skilful, more athletic, more complete footballers and not merely big men. Jones won his first cap against South Africa, and part of the significance of that

November day was that Gareth Llewellyn, his partner, had such a good game. It matters not how good your lineout pattern is, you are forced to take notice of so substantial a player and that may leave windows of opportunity for Jones's lineout colleagues.

Not only the forwards. If a player such as Jones is to be prevented from influencing a game, opponents may be forced to employ the illegalities that are rife at the lineout. Given an alert referee, penalties may accrue to the benefit of Neil Jenkins — to turn the glory of record points hauls, in his forwards the work that allows him to kick goals.

Like so many others in the home nations these days, Jones, 24, learnt much of his rugby in England, at Loughborough University and at Northampton, where, on all too few occasions, he and Bayfield cast a long shadow together. But it was not until Alex Evans took him in hand at Cardiff that his rise began, and the best recommendation for his talents is that, against South Africa, Wales looked extraordinarily competitive at the set pieces. With so-called a technician as Norster available as the Wales team manager, the only way for Jones to go is up.



Rob Andrew

ENGLAND

ROB ANDREW claims that his hobbies are gardening and DIY. Heaven knows what sort of a shambles his home and garden are in, given the meticulous preparation he puts into his business and sporting careers — the attention to detail that still leaves him restlessly seeking perfection even after ten international seasons.

It is axiomatic that a side will not be successful unless its half backs function effectively. In that respect, Andrew has no peer in England, nor is there an emergent talent that could threaten his position at stand-off, but he is far more than the fulcrum of the side, he is the points scorer, the man who has become England's portable comfort zone since his restoration to the kicking duties last year.

In six internationals since then, Andrew has struck 39 goals from 45 attempts, a success rate of more than 86 per cent, which, allowing for the varying conditions and stadiums in which those games were played — Paris, Twickenham, Pretoria and Cape Town — puts him firmly into the super-boot bracket.

That tally is the direct result of Andrew remodelling his kicking action, aided by David Alred, from Bristol, whose special-

ist services are in demand in both hemispheres. But more than that, the points he scores offer so sure a foundation for the playing approach that England wish to adopt. Players will risk more if they know that Andrew offers a fall-back position.

If England are frustrated by opponents — such as Romania and Canada — who concede penalties to prevent try-scoring, then Andrew will punish them. Simple as that, yet only because, when all his colleagues have showered and changed after training, Andrew will still be out on the pitch, aiming at goal.

He also shoulders the tactical load. After the elevation of Kyran Bracken to scrum half, Andrew must use the accumulated experience of 31 years and 61 caps to help his young partner to find his way through the international maze. At the same time, it is Andrew's imprint that must be left on the game — when to pass, when to kick, when to run. And watch him tackle. At Wasps, he has a tackle count higher than nearly every colleague for England it is the same. If England enjoy a successful 1995, it will be due to many factors, but Andrew will have been at the heart of it.



Rob Wainwright

SCOTLAND

PAINT a picture of the best moment of Scotland's 1994 five nations' championship: of Andy Reed plucking a loose ball out of the air, of white England shirts in pursuit of the flying Tony Stanger, and finally the tall figure of Rob Wainwright, looming up in support of his wing to touch down for the try that convinced many of his colleagues that the tables were about to be turned.

Sadly, though, that has been the story of Wainwright's international career so far, of promise unfulfilled — just as Scotland lost that match to Jonathan Callard's final penalty goal. Nor, indeed, did Wainwright himself complete the game, a fractured cheekbone forcing him off the pitch and out of the championship. This year could change all that if the former Cambridge University flanker, at 29, can steer clear of the injuries that have blighted his sporting life and restricted him to a mere seven caps.

Wainwright, a product of Glenalmond, possesses most of the physical attributes of a modern back-row forward: tall enough (6ft 4in) to contribute at the lineout, fast enough to support in a wide game, strong enough (15st 4lb) to punch (in the legal sense, though his cv includes

a Blue for boxing) holes close to ruck or maul. But it is his tactical perception that Scotland will value, particularly with the team captain posted at full back.

Wainwright is a leader; indeed, he would have led the Scots on the tour of Argentina last summer had not a damaged hamstring intervened. First though, he must make his presence felt on a regular basis in a side desperate for success and now requiring continuity after the upheaval that resulted from the defeat by South Africa last November.

It will be encouraging for those who believe in university rugby that Wainwright is joined in the back row this weekend by two other Cambridge Blues, Eric Peters and Iain Morrison, both of whom — like Wainwright himself — play their club rugby in England. West Hartlepool have swiftly learnt to value Wainwright. Club officials believe he could be not only the next captain of Scotland, but also of the British Isles. He exudes not just confidence but enthusiasm, in his play, in his reading of the game, in his encouragement of colleagues. All these are qualities that the "new" Scotland must have if it is to make headway in a hard environment.

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

Randriantefy, a qualifier, on her way to a second-round victory in the Australian Open

knockings of the season—the ten and a bit months that follow their eccentric event. It should be a bumper year.

SPORT

THURSDAY JANUARY 19 1995

Champion
jockey
banned for
30 days

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

RICHARD DUNWOODY, the champion National Hunt jockey, was yesterday banned for 30 days for careless riding and intentional interference at Uttoxeter 13 days ago. The suspension, which starts on Saturday, is the longest imposed on a jumps jockey for a comparable offence.

At the time, Dunwoody would not comment on the verdict, delivered after a 90-minute hearing at the Jockey Club's headquarters in London. He left the building by a rear exit but later indicated that he may contest the ban. "I want to let the dust settle on what has happened before I consider whether to appeal or not," the jockey said at Windsor, where his seven rides failed to yield a winner. He has until tomorrow to make up his mind about an appeal.



Dunwoody: may appeal

This was not the first evidence of Dunwoody's ruthless riding streak. He was banned for 14 days last season after forcing Adrian Maguire, his arch rival, into the approach wing of a hurdle at Nottingham and had to sit out the Cheltenham Festival in March, the highlight of the jumping season. He has already served two riding suspensions this season, including six days for irresponsible riding in October.

His latest rule breach came when Luke Harvey launched a challenge between Dunwoody and the inside runner at Uttoxeter. In quickly blocking Harvey's move, Dunwoody was adjudged to have ridden carelessly, but another collision, moments later, was to prove more

damaging. Harvey renewed his challenge, again on Dunwoody's inside, and this time Dunwoody appeared to deliberately ride his mount, G'time A Buzz, into Harvey's horse, Wadsworth Country.

Such behaviour is naturally frowned upon by the Jockey Club, which abandoned its penalty guidelines to deal severely with the Irishman. The stewards at Uttoxeter could have sentenced him to between seven and 14 days but chose instead to refer the matter to Portman Square. The previous longest ban for an offence of this nature was the 28 days given to Graham McCourt in 1986.

Dunwoody's ban will impede his efforts to retain the jockeys' championship he won for the first time last season. Financially, he could forfeit £10,000 in riding fees alone. His percentage of prize-money might easily have doubled that sum.

A replacement jockey will be sought for Minnehoma, the Grand National winner, who runs at Haydock on Saturday, and for Fortune And Fame, favourite for the AIG Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown the following day. Maguire, 18 winners adrift of Dunwoody in the title race, now has a good chance to overhaul the deficit before the champion returns on February 20.

An unwritten code in the jockeys' weighing-room holds that its leading occupant is entitled to make the inside running rail his own territory. Apart from offering the shortest way round, the inside berth is advantageous in helping jockeys to present their horses at the obstacles. Such a privilege — perceived to have been earned — is rigidly enforced, as it was when John Francome and Peter Scudamore were National Hunt racing's champion jockeys.

Dunwoody is expected to holiday abroad after his last ride tomorrow. He spent a large part of last year's ban on the ski slopes. Whatever the outcome of his thoughts on appealing, he will reflect that yesterday's verdict hardly made for the ideal celebration of his 31st birthday.

Ratings accolade, page 45

England fit and ready to go



Rodber, with Richards in support, sharpens his lineout technique yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

England leave for Dublin this afternoon in readiness for their opening encounter in rugby union's five nations' championship, against Ireland on Saturday, with a full squad still intact. Dean Richards and Martin Johnson, the two Leicester forwards, successfully came through a training session at Roehampton yesterday and

so banished any lingering injury doubts. The news was less good for the hosts, however, as Michael Bradley, the Ireland captain, yesterday decided to withdraw from the match after the death last weekend of his first-born child. The captaincy passes to Brendan Mullin, playing in his 47th international, and Niall Hogan, of Terenure

College, comes in to win his first cap at scrum half. Ireland therefore set out in search of their third successive championship victory over England with two debutants at half back. Paul Burke, of Cork Constitution, is also a newcomer to the national side, at stand-off half. Forged ticket warning, page 42. Five to watch, page 43.

RUGBY UNION 43
LEADING LIGHTS THAT
ILLUMINATE EACH
FIVE NATIONS' TEAMAtherton gives
struggling
Gooch vote of
confidence

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND are clinging to the hope that Graham Gooch will finish his last Ashes tour with a flourish. The 41-year-old former captain has managed one half-century in 12 international innings and is ready to retire from top-level cricket if there is no improvement between now and February 7.

While Gooch sounds and looks like a man desperately low on confidence, his successor refuses to accept suggestions that the great days are gone for ever. "Graham has had these low patches before and picked himself up," Michael Atherton said yesterday. "I'm sure he will do the same again."

"It's been a difficult month or so for him and I've seen him in better nick. But I think it comes down to confidence rather than any technical deficiency. A lot of people are jumping on the bandwagon by saying he's not moving his feet properly. But, having batted at the other end with him for a long time, I don't think there's much difference in the way he's playing. It's mainly a matter of Graham getting some runs and getting some confidence."

As Atherton points out, Gooch has known bad times as well as good during his England career. The fear now, though, is that this time there may be no way back. He started the tour superbly, with a string of good scores, but three Test matches and six one-day internationals have produced only 207 runs.

Gooch's unhappy international run stretches back to before England's arrival in Australia three months ago. Since making 210 against New Zealand at Trent Bridge early last summer, he has passed 50 just once in 15 Test innings.

Even so, it is Gooch's fellow elder statesman, Mike Gatting, who is likely to be dropped next week when the Ashes series resumes in Adelaide, assuming Alec Stewart proves his fitness over the next few days and there are no more injuries. Stewart, who broke his right index

finger for the second time on tour during the Christmas Test in Melbourne, has declared himself ready to face Victoria in Bendigo tomorrow.

"Batting-wise, the finger is OK," Stewart said after scoring an undefeated 48 yesterday for David Gower's XI against Allan Border's team in a friendly fixture in the Victorian town of Sunbury. "There's not much pain now, but obviously I might struggle if I got hit on it again," he said.

That is a chance Stewart will take against a Victoria side missing the seam bowlers, Merv Hughes and Damien Fleming. Hughes has a hamstring injury while Fleming, like Shane Warne, is being rested. England have yet to decide whether Stewart will open in Bendigo, although he would prefer to bat in the middle order.

"I think that might make sense for this game and we can then talk about the fourth Test."

Having had four days' rest after their elimination from the World Series Cup, Atherton believes his team will be in the best possible frame of mind to face Victoria. "The break has been good for us and I would recommend something similar on every long tour," he said. "I don't think the players will need any gearing up. I would like to think we can win one if not both of the remaining two Tests."

In any event, England will be without Shaun Udal, who has become the fourth player to have his tour ended by injury. The Hampshire spinner flies home today because of a torn muscle in his left side.

England's dismal Ashes tour has failed to prevent sell-outs for the Friday and Saturday of the sixth Test against West Indies at the Oval in the summer.

Indeed, there are only a limited number of tickets available to the public for the first and fourth days of the match, which starts on August 24.

Alan Lee, page 46

Hill wants Mansell back to add competitive edge

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DAMON HILL, who finished runner-up to Michael Schumacher in the Formula One world championship last year, is expecting an even more competitive season with the presence of Nigel Mansell. Hill does not believe the former world champion is out of motor racing, despite being without a drive for 1995 so far.

Mansell, the winner of 31 grands prix, was overlooked by the Williams-Renault team after rejoining

his former outfit late last year, but Hill, in Hong Kong on the first leg of a world tour to parade the new Williams line-up for the season, said yesterday that the sport would miss Mansell. David Coulthard, a young Scot, was preferred to Mansell, 41, as Hill's partner after a bout of musical chairs among drivers.

Hill, who lost the 1994 championship to Schumacher in the final race of the season in Australia, said: "I think it would be great to have Nigel driving again in 1995; he is always

good value for money." Mansell's best hope appears to be as Mika Hakkinen's partner in the McLaren-Mercedes team. "It would be good if Nigel could get the chance, but I suppose McLaren is the only likely one, although there seems to be an outside chance with Benetton," Hill said.

Having driven 95 races for the Williams team, Mansell came back for the final three grands prix last year, winning the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide after the champion-

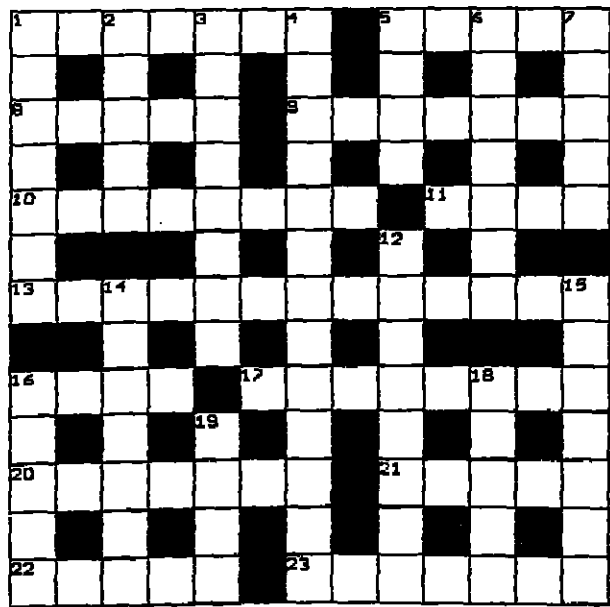
ship-deciding collision between Schumacher and Hill.

Formula One is in need of good news after the announcement on Tuesday that the Lotus team would not enter the championship because of insufficient finance. However, David Hunt, managing director of the team, yesterday said that Lotus could be on the starting grid for 1995 in a joint effort with another team.

"Our commitment is still to get Team Lotus to the grid in good order," Hunt said. "We have been

approached by more than one team with a view to some form of joint effort which would result in Team Lotus being represented on the grid in 1995 and those options are being seriously evaluated."

Hunt, the brother of the late former world champion, James, emphasised that he did not think that the most famous team in British motor racing, which has won 79 grands prix and collected seven constructors' and six world drivers' titles, had come to the end of the road.



CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Concise Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each, Books 3, 4, 5 & 6 £4.50 each). The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each, Concise Book £5.99). The Times Crosswords: (Books 1 to 15 £4.99 each, Books 16 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.50 each). The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords: (Book 1 £4.99, Books 10, 11, 12 & NEW Book 13 £4.50 each). The Sunday Times Jumbo Crosswords: (Books 1, 2 & 3 £5.99 each, Concise Book £5.99). Prices include p.p.c. (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Adams Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 373

- ACROSS
- 1 Knead, manipulate (7)
 - 5 Pondered (5)
 - 8 Broke apart; Adriatic port (5)
 - 9 Have reference, relevance (7)
 - 10 Inability to sleep (3)
 - 11 In purposeless fashion (4)
 - 13 Thoroughly (4,3,6)
 - 16 Person from Riga (4)
 - 17 One of eight born together (8)
 - 20 Prime Minister (7)
 - 21 Asian subcontinent republic (5)
 - 22 Demonstration (of truth) (5)
 - 23 Overindulgence, nausea (7)

- DOWN
- 1 Absent, whereabouts unknown (7)
 - 2 — Marnet (George Eliot) (5)
 - 3 Of the season after summer (8)
 - 4 Team spirit (6,2,5)
 - 5 Spoils; planet (4)
 - 6 Rise; survive scrutiny (5,2)
 - 7 Pop; fine (5)
 - 12 Gaming-table supervisor (8)
 - 14 Busy, active (2,3,2)
 - 15 Withdraw (remark) (7)
 - 16 Consume with delight (and credulity) (3,2)
 - 18 Soup serving-spoon (5)
 - 19 Jazz/rock figure; tribesman (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 372

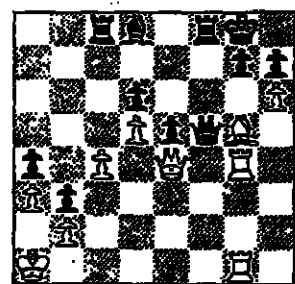
ACROSS: 1 Muckrake 7 Gaudy 8 Suez Canal 9 Era 10 Crib 11 Desert 13 Sphinx 14 Cursed 17 Oracle 18 NASA 20 Pen 22 Cleopatra 23 Lucky 24 Newsreel
DOWN: 1 Music 2 Cherish 3 Rack 4 Kennel 5 Duvert 6 Pyramid 7 Gleeful 12 Infancy 13 Shapely 15 Starlie 16 Sleeve 17 On ice 19 Avail 21 Opus

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Nunn - Hansen, Naestved 1985. Here Nunn won with a brilliant move, exploiting the strength of his major pieces on the g-file. This is a difficult problem, so full marks if you spot White's ingenious win.

Solution, page 44
Raymond Keene, page 4



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SIFAKA

- a. Travelling rations
- b. A long cloak
- c. A sort of monkey

VOTIC

- a. A Finnish language
- b. Making prayers
- c. A diacritic mark

SPAUG

- a. To ridicule
- b. Edible seaweed
- c. A clumsy foot

TAMARI

- a. An evergreen shrub
- b. A soy sauce
- c. Fuss or commotion

Answers on page 44

"I SAVED £87"
Mr. S. Halesborough.

"I SAVED £110"
Mrs. L. Oxford.

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